Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-89-063 *4 April 1989*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Meetings Begin Between Soviet, Cuban Officials 1
Commentary on Leader's Arrival *[Havana Radio]* 1
Gorbachev To Visit Lenin Park *[Havana Radio]* 1
Places Wreath at Lenin Monument *[Havana Radio]* 1
Official Talks Begin *[Havana Radio]* 1
Officials in Attendance Noted *[Havana TV]* 1
Tour of 'EXPOCUBA' *[Havana Radio]* 2
Raisa Gorbachev Tours *[Havana TV]* 2
Calls Visit 'Important Event' *[Havana Radio]* 2
Gerasimov: Talks 'Going Well' *[Havana Radio]* 2
More on Gerasimov Comments *[Havana Radio]* 3
Station on Reaction to Visit *[Havana Radio]* 3
Delegations Begin Meetings *[Havana TV]* 3
Foreign Ministers Meet *[Havana TV]* 3
PCC, CPSU Secretaries Meet *[Havana TV]* 4
Criticism of U.S. Newsmen *[Havana International]* 4
Castro Offers Reception *[Havana Radio]* 4
Ambassador to USSR on Perestroyka, Trade *[Moscow Radio]* 5
Soviet-Cuban Sugar Industry Cooperation Noted *[Havana TV]* 5
Havana Reports Armed Incidents in Namibia *[Havana TV]* 5
UN To Examine Situation *[Havana Radio]* 5
South Africa Admits Attack *[Havana Radio]* 5
Deputy Foreign Minister on Policy of Change *[Vienna DIE PRESSE 3 Apr]* 6
Officials Discuss Country's Human Rights Stand *[NOTIMEX]* 6

Dominican Republic

Judge Attempts To Impede Legal Proceedings *[Santo Domingo Radio]* 7
Government Aware of Rice Storage Area *[Santo Domingo Radio]* 7

Grenada

Prime Minister Responds to Judiciary Critics *[CANA]* 8
Party Leader Resolves Conflict With Blaize *[CANA]* 8

Haiti

Reportage on Coup Attempt in Port-au-Prince 9
Avril Issues Statement *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 9
Demonstrators Want Rebus *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 10
More Shooting; Airport Closed *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 10
Leopards 'Occupying' Airport *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 10
Deadline Set for Rebus Release *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 10
Further Details of Coup Attempt *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
Demonstrations Continue *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
Situation 'Very Tense' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 12
3 Apr 'Panic' in Petion-Ville *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 13

Revolt 'Under Control' *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 13
'Violent Armed Confrontation' *[Paris International]* 14
Rebus Sent to Dominican Republic *[AFP]* 14
Haitian Priest To Head Radio Soleil *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 14
New Administration Installed *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 14
Unions Fail To Agree on CEP Representative *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 15

MEXICO

Government Questions 'Mistreatment' of Mexicans *[Mexico City TV]* 16
PRC President To Visit 30 May-3 June *[AFP]* 16
Soviet Envoy on Gorbachev's Visit to Cuba *[EXCELSIOR 29 Mar]* 16

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Arias Criticizes Ortega, Leaves for U.S. *[ACAN]* 17

El Salvador

Ponce on Newsmen's Deaths, FMLN Actions *[San Salvador TV]* 17
PDC Issues Communique on Election Results *[EL DIARIO DE HOY 30 Mar]* 18
PCN Leader on ARENA Efforts in Assembly *[San Salvador Radio]* 18
Zamora Doubts ARENA Campaign Promises *[San Salvador TV]* 19
MPSC Protests Arrest of Party Members *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 30 Mar]* 19
Coprefa Reports Battle Statistics for March *[San Salvador Radio]* 20
FMLN Damages Helicopter in Usulutan *[Radio Venceremos]* 21
Rebels Report Attacks in San Salvador *[Radio Venceremos]* 21
FMLN Reports 'Intensive' Actions in March *[Radio Venceremos]* 21
Rebels Claim 96 Army Casualties 27 Mar-1 Apr *[Radio Venceremos]* 22

Guatemala

New Party Criticizes Christian Democratic Party *[EL GRAFICO 31 Mar]* 22
Army Spokesman Denies Report of URNG Clashes *[LA HORA 28 Mar]* 22
New Social Security Minister Sworn In *[ACAN]* 23

Nicaragua

Editorial on Opposition Reaction to Contra Aid *[BARRICADA 29 Mar]* 23
Contras Ask To Inspect Sandinist Prisons *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 23
Station Employees Take Over Radio Paz *[Managua Radio]* 24
Further on Takeover *[Managua Radio]* 24
Honduran Army Reportedly Attacks Border Area *[Managua Radio]* 25
Cooperation Protocol Signed With CSSR *[BARRICADA 27 Mar]* 25
Finland To Give $35 Million in Aid for Imports *[BARRICADA 1 Apr]* 25

Panama

Solis Palma on Perez' Comments, U.S. Army *[Panama City TV]* 25
Ritter Responds to Venezuelan Leader's Comments *[Hamburg DPA]* 26
Editorial Scores Venezuelan President *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 2 Apr]* 26
COLINA 'Abused' at U.S. Air Force Base *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 3 Apr]* 27
Duque's Position Lauded *[MEDIODIA 3 Apr]* 28
COLINA's Duque on U.S. Military 'Statements' *[Panama City TV]* 28
U.S. Army Receives Caskets, Body Bags *[CRITICA 3 Apr]* 29
Solis on 13th-Month Bonus, Promissory Notes *[Panama City Radio]* 29
Attorney General Reports Cooperation With DEA *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 2 Apr]* 31

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Caputo To 'Put Aside' Falklands Issue for Now *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 33
Gassino Defends War *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 33
Change in Economic Minister Discussed 33
UCR on Sourrouille Replacement *[LA PRENSA 31 Mar]* 33
Reasons for Resignation *[TELAM]* 33
Party Leaders React *[DYN]* 34
Pugliese on Appointment *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 34
Federal Judge Denies Border Incident With Chile *[TELAM]* 35
Human Rights Organization Headquarters Attacked *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 35
Noise Bomb Injures Minors in Cordoba *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 35

Chile

President Requests Cabinet Resignations *[Santiago TV]* 35
Agriculture Minister Resigns *[Santiago Radio]* 36
Finance Minister Resigns *[Santiago Radio]* 36
Instructions to Military in Case of Plebiscite *[Santiago Radio]* 36
Foreign Minister To Officially Visit Argentina *[Santiago Radio]* 36
Bomb Explosion Damages Municipal Building *[Santiago Radio]* 36

Ecuador

More on Resumption of Foreign Debt Payments *[AFP]* 36
Official Denies 'Uneasiness' in Armed Forces *[EL UNIVERSO 21 Mar]* 37

Paraguay

Colorado Party Special Convention Opens *[Asuncion TV]* 38
Rodriguez Addresses Luncheon *[Asuncion TV]* 38
Unified Radical Liberal Party Names Candidate *[ABC COLOR 30 Mar]* 38
Liberal Party Elects Presidential Candidate *[HOY 3 Apr]* 38
Liberal Party Elects Members for Congress *[HOY 3 Apr]* 38
Cabinet Evaluation of Economy 'Encouraging' *[HOY 1 Apr]* 38

Peru

Garcia Praises Puerto Rican Independence Support *[Lima TV]* 40
Presidential Elections Advanced to March 1990 *[TELAM]* 40
Minister Interviewed on Economy, Recent Measures *[Lima TV]* 40

Venezuela

Perez Returns to Caracas, Assesses U.S. Trip *[AFP]* 42
Perez Pleased Over Brady Plan, UN Contacts *[Hamburg DPA]* 42
Perez on Panama Elections, Regional Issues *[ACAN]* 43

Cuba

Meetings Begin Between Soviet, Cuban Officials

Commentary on Leader's Arrival

FL0304162689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1426 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Commentary by Yolanda Machin]

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev's arrival on Cuban soil has made the friendship between two nations vibrate more than ever—two nations that have been able to find, in their intimate communication, the truth of human solidarity. A sea of people covered the streets of our capital, and among shouts of Viva Gorbachev! Viva Fidel! the revolutionary forces made us see one of the most wonderful welcomes the people of Havana have ever seen. Banners, applause, and faces full of happiness saturated the atmosphere.

It was not just the visit of the general secretary of the CPSU; it was something more. It was, as one man in the crowd said: When we saw Fidel and Gorbachev together, it seemed to us we were looking at Marti and Lenin—two eminent persons who, each in their respective countries, struggled for the happiness of their peoples and all of humanity.

Gorbachev To Visit Lenin Park

FL0304153489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1432 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, accompanied by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, has placed a floral wreath at the foot of the monument to our national hero Jose Marti at Revolution Square.

During the ceremony, the wife of the Soviet leader, Raisa Gorbachev, and Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, also placed a floral wreath at the Jose Marti Monument. The ceremony in honor of Jose Marti was also attended by other Government and party officials of Cuba and the Soviet Union and by other figures from our country and the USSR.

The Soviet delegation visiting our country is scheduled to visit Lenin Park today. Mikhail Gorbachev will place a floral wreath there in honor of the leader of the proletariat.

Places Wreath at Lenin Monument

FL0304191589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1904 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has placed a floral wreath at the foot of the Vladimir Ilich Lenin Monument that was inaugurated on 8 January 1984. He was accompanied by our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz. After the solemn ceremony, Fidel gave details of the monument to the highest Soviet leader. Raisa Gorbachev, wife of the Soviet leader, and Vilma Espin, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo also placed a floral wreath at the foot of the Lenin Monument.

The president of the Soviet Union chatted with those attending the solemn ceremony, with members of the PCC Central Committee and figures of the Cuban Government among them. The two presidents were accompanied by members of the Soviet delegation visiting our country.

Official Talks Begin

FL0304162589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1608 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Official talks between the Cuban and Soviet delegations headed by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU, and Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], began this morning. Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, is participating in this first round of talks for the Soviet part and Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC, for the Cuban part.

The president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, accompanied by our commander in chief, placed a floral wreath at the foot of the monument of the Cuban national hero, Jose Marti, early this morning. During the ceremony, Raisa Gorbachev, wife of the Soviet leader, and Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, also placed a floral wreath at the foot of the Jose Marti Monument.

Officials in Attendance Noted

FL0304183789 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Official talks between the delegations of the USSR and Cuba began at the Revolution Palace today at 1030. The Soviet delegation is chaired by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and composed of Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Politburo and foreign minister; Aleksandr Yakovlev, member of the CPSU Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Yuriy Petrov, ambassador of the USSR to Cuba; V. Boldin, chief of the General Department of the Central Committee; G. Shakhnazarov, aide to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; R. Fedorov, first deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee; V. Komplektov, deputy foreign minister; O. Darusenkov, sector chief in the International Department; Gennadiy Gerasimov, chief of the Information Administration of the USSR; and S. Armayev, counselor of the president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The following were present for the Cuban part: Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers; Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces; Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers; and Jorge Risquet, Osmani Cienfuegos, and Julio Camacho Aguilera, members of the PCC Politburo. Also present were Rosa Elena Simeon, alternate member of the PCC Politburo and president of the Cuban Academy of Sciences; Carlos Aldana Escalante, secretary of the PCC Central Committee; Isidoro Malmierca, foreign minister; Jesus Montane Oropeza, aide of the commander in chief; Rafael Polanco, first deputy chief of the General Department of the Foreign Relations Department of the Central Committee; and Luis Felipe Vazquez, chief of the USSR section in the PCC Central Committee.

Tour of 'EXPOCUBA'

FL0304185289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1829 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro is at this time accompanying Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU, in a tour through the permanent exposition of the achievements of the Revolution, EXPOCUBA, in this capital. The large, (?main) pavilion includes the major achievements of the Revolution in various economic areas. It was inaugurated on 4 January on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the triumph of our revolutionary process.

Raisa Gorbachev Tours

FL0304184389 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Raisa Gorbachev, wife of the general secretary of the CPSU, a few moments ago visited the headquarters of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association. The distinguished visitor arrived at the institute accompanied by Vilma Espin, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo and president of the Federation of Cuban women. There, she was greeted by a group of pioneers from the (?Guiro Fuentes) basic secondary school and from the Pedro Portuondo elementary school in Plaza Municipality. The visitors were also given the bread and salt—a beautiful tradition that expresses our friendship.

At the association, Raisa Gorbachev held a lively conversation with Rene Rodriguez Cruz, president of ICAP [Cuban Friendship with the Peoples Institute]; Zoilo Marinello, president of the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association; and Jorge Lezcano Perez, first secretary of the party's provincial committee in Havana City.

During the conversation, the wife of the Soviet leader expressed interest in the promotional work done by the association in our country. Afterward, the delegation enjoyed a simple performance by students from our art schools.

Raisa Gorbachev also visited this morning the Para Empezar a Vivir child care center in Plaza de la Revolucion Municipality. [A child is shown reciting a poem in Russian to Raisa.]

The distinguished visitor received from Zola Benitez, provincial director for education, an extensive briefing on the development of the institution in Havana City. [Raisa shown briefly picks up a little girl and then puts her back down.]
[Begin Raisa Gorbachev recording, in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] How old are you?
[Little girl] Four.
[Raisa] Four, and what is your name?
[Little girl] Glenda Salinas Notorio.
[Raisa] Glenda. Wonderful! Look, here. [Raisa hands over a stuffed bear to the little girl.]
[Salinas] Thank you.

Calls Visit 'Important Event'

FL0404001889 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2335 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The meeting between the top leaders of the CPSU and the Communist Party of Cuba is a very important event in the lives of the two countries, Raisa Gorbachev, wife of CPSU General Secretary said today.

During a visit to the Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association, Raisa Gorbachev said that this meeting would contribute to the development and strengthening of Cuban-Soviet brotherhood. She emphasized that the Soviets deeply admire the Cuban Revolution and the efforts of Cuban revolutionaries.

Gerasimov: Talks 'Going Well'

FL0304212289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2102 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Gennadiy Gerasimov, spokesman for the Soviet delegation headed by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev that is currently visiting us, has reported in a news conference that the first official meeting with the Cuban delegation headed by Cuban President Commander Fidel Castro ended at noon today. He added that the talks are going well.

Gerasimov said that part of the time was devoted to an analysis of the situation prevailing in Latin America, with two topics being discussed: the foreign debt and the status of Latin American countries that have become producers and possible consumers of narcotics.

Gerasimov noted the importance of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro's recent visits to Latin America. He said that these trips were observed with great interest in his country.

The spokesman of the visiting Soviet delegation said that the first official talks had been carried out in a friendly atmosphere, and that the time had passed quickly.

More on Gerasimov Comments

FL0304215789 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2133 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Gennadiy Gerasimov, spokesman for the Soviet delegation headed by CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev that is currently visiting us, has said that the first talks between Cuban President Fidel Castro and CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev emphasized the permanent nature of their two countries' relations.

Gerasimov said that during the meeting, Gorbachev commented on how impressed he had been by the welcome extended to him by the people of Havana. Gerasimov said that the visit has been interesting, because it demonstrates to the currently changing world that relations between Cuba and the USSR, despite the fact that those countries are on different continents, are evolving in the most cordial atmosphere. He added that this visit by the Soviet leader demonstrates his country's interest in the development of the American continent.

In response to questions from foreign newsmen accredited to report on Gorbachev's visit to Havana, Gennadiy Gerasimov said that the talks in general dealt with the situation prevailing in Latin America. On Central America, the spokesman for the Soviet delegation said that Soviet policy in that area is well defined; those countries should seek a solution to their problems by way of dialogue.

Gerasimov emphasized that an increase in Cuban exports to the USSR will help to make the two countries' trade relations more balanced.

In conclusion, Gerasimov said that the talks between Gorbachev and Castro have only started, and that he feels the most important topics are still to be discussed.

Station on Reaction to Visit

FL0304222989 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2205 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Latin American personalities and organizations have expressed opinions about the visit to Cuba by Mikhail Gorbachev, highest leader of the USSR. They have all noted the momentous importance of this historic visit.

Patricio Echegaray, deputy secretary general of the Communist Party of Argentina, noted the importance to Latin America of Gorbachev's visit to our country, both as an expression of solidarity with Third World peoples, and from the viewpoint of its impact on their proposals for resolving the foreign debt problem.

EL DIARIO DE CARACAS of Venezuela said that the Soviet leader's visit will help to reinforce peace and will provide new perspectives for relations, not only with Cuba, but with all of Latin America.

Rafael Angel Barreto, president of the Venezuelan-Cuban Friendship Institute, said in Caracas that contacts between the leaders of the USSR and Cuba will promote favorable solutions to the area's problems.

Delegations Begin Meetings

FL0404013089 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] This afternoon, the Cuban and Soviet delegations began official talks at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers. The meeting was presided over by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, and Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR's foreign minister.

The matters discussed were: bilateral relations, economic cooperation between both countries; and cooperation in the foreign policy sector, especially the progress being made in the disarmament negotiations between the USSR and the United States.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said that Cuba could be the link between socialism and Latin America. In the exchange of opinions, the excellent state of Cuban-Soviet relations in all fields, especially the carrying out of foreign policy, were shown.

Also at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and the Cuban delegation held talks with the Soviet group led by Vladimir Kamentsev, member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The delegates analyzed different aspects of economic cooperation between Cuba and the USSR. The Cuban vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers told the Soviet delegation that these meetings confirm the close relations between both countries. Proof of this was how the people of Havana congregated in the streets to greet the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Foreign Ministers Meet

FL0404014589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] This afternoon, at the headquarters of the Council of Ministers in Revolution Square, official talks were held between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Cuban counterpart, Isidoro Malmierca. Several Cuban vice foreign ministers were also present at the meeting.

The talks form part of the contacts maintained between the Cuban authorities and the members of the Soviet delegation accompanying CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

PCC, CPSU Secretaries Meet

FL0404015489 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] This afternoon, Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Politburo and secretary of the PCC Central Committee, held fraternal talks with Aleksandr Yakolev, member of the CPSU Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

In the meeting, held at the Central Committee headquarters, the officials discussed matters of the present international situation, bilateral relations, and multilateral cooperation between both parties, as well as other matters of interest.

The exchange of opinions and information was carried out in a fraternal atmosphere of mutual understanding which corresponds to the traditional, friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Cuba.

Criticism of U.S. Newsmen

PA0404044089 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Apr 89

["What the Cuban Press Has To Say" feature with Vivian Nunez and Manuel Somoza]

[Excerpts] [Somoza] Details of the Cuban-Soviet summit, currently under way in Havana, and the future of relations between the two countries have dominated the local media. Newspapers and radio and television stations are carrying unprecedented coverage of this event that, as you know, achieved a unique dimension from the very moment of Mikhail Gorbachev's arrival in Havana on Sunday, when he was greeted by more than 500,000 Havana residents.

[Nunez] From that very moment there has been nothing that has escaped the eyes of the hundreds of local and foreign correspondents who are reporting on the visit. [passage omitted]

[Somoza] Today's official meetings have not ended, but the correspondents are predicting important results in light of the climate of respect and joy surrounding the Castro-Gorbachev summit and the strong ties that have existed between the two countries since the most difficult years of the Cuban Revolution.

[Nunez] But in every event of this nature, there is always a discordant note. This note is being played by some of the hundreds of U.S. correspondents who arrived on the island to inform—disinform, rather—on what is happening in Cuba.

[Somoza] With the usual grace, modesty, and lack of individualism characteristic of many North Americans, they came to the island several days ago displaying their own color of press credentials—large and colorful credentials bearing the Cuban and Soviet flags, so everyone could easily see why they were on the island.

We are here to cover the summit, some say in Spanish spoken with some reluctance. However, from the looks of those large and colorful press credentials, we can guess the intentions of this coverage. In addition to the flags of the two countries, which are symbols of the summit, the credentials also have a photograph of Gorbachev.

[Nunez] According to Radio Moscow special correspondent Viktor Antilov, this is not only disrespectful of the host country, but also further proof that the U.S. press wants to turn Gorbachev into some kind of a fetish. Antilov added: We will have to wait and see if during the meeting between our leader and George Bush in Moscow their press credentials will also have Gorbachev's photograph on them. Perhaps it is a new technique to be used during summits, the Soviet special correspondent said.

[Somoza] Correspondents representing the three major U.S. television networks arrived on the island en masse, like part of a big circus. They brought their own generators—just in case there is a power outage in Cuba, they said—and they have even brought their own drinking water, maybe out of fear of an attack. They have their own private planes and transmit directly to the United States; they trust no one. They have shown no interest whatsoever in finding out why there are no beggars on the island nor why—if, as they say, there are differences between the Cubans and the Soviets as a result of perestroyka—on their day of rest thousands of men, women, and children gave Gorbachev the most spontaneous welcome ever given a foreign guest. They, with their little flags, are looking for something else. [passage omitted]

Castro Offers Reception

FL0404025489 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0202 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Tonight, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, Fidel Castro, gave a reception for the secretary general of the CPSU, Mikhail Gorbachev.

The second secretary of the PCC and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Raul Castro, as well as other Cuban and Soviet officials were present at the reception.

Today, the Soviet leader began his first visit to Cuba, a Latin American country where he will remain until next Wednesday [5 April] at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro.

During his stay in our country, Gorbachev and his accompanying delegation will fulfill an agenda that includes, foremost, official talks and tours of various places of socioeconomic interest.

Ambassador to USSR on Perestroyka, Trade

PA0304163189 Moscow in Spanish to Latin America 2300 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and ambassador to the USSR, said that Cuba fully supports the international peace initiatives sponsored by the USSR. Camacho Aguilera, who was interviewed by the Soviet newspaper PRAVDA, said that Cuba trusts that the measures being carried out by Mikhail Gorbachev within the framework of perestroyka will be successful, and he emphasized the successful development of Cuban-Soviet economic cooperation.

Julio Camacho Aguilera added: Trade this year will increase to approximately 500 million rubles, and the USSR is still Cuba's main trade partner. The upcoming meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Fidel Castro will undoubtedly represent a new contribution toward the strengthening of Soviet-Cuban friendship, the ambassador noted.

Soviet-Cuban Sugar Industry Cooperation Noted

FL0304203289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Soviet cooperation has been very broad in these 30 years, especially in the sugar industry, our main economic area.

[Begin recording] [Anatoliy Kochubi, adviser for the Sugar Industry Ministry, indentified by caption, in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] We are going to mark the 30th anniversary of cooperation in the area of the sugar industry. Regarding the outlook, much more than what has been done is expected. I would like to note with satisfaction that the Sugar Industry Ministry has developed an integral development program in raw material basis and machine building for the next 5-year period and until the year 2000. This program foresees the expansion of cooperation between the Soviet Union and Cuba in the development of the sugar industry. This cooperation is going to reach a new level of development. [end recording]

Havana Reports Armed Incidents in Namibia

FL0304130889 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] UN authorities supervising Namibia's independence process have sent a group of experts to the northern area of the country to investigate an alleged armed incident in the region. The measure was adopted after the South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha lodged a complaint which was received by the UN supervisors cautiously.

A fierce South African military repression appears to have been unleashed in Namibia in the last hours. According to unconfirmed reports, at least 100 SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] supporters were killed.

A spokesman for Louis Peinaar, South African administrator general of Namibia, admitted in Windhoek that violent clashes took place in the northern part of the country. Nevertheless, the figure handled by official circles of SWAPO's 124 casualties led analysts to believe that South Africa had carried out massive attacks on unarmed people.

UN To Examine Situation

FL0304210689 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1955 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Today, the members of the UN Security Council will examine the situation in Namibia where, for the past 3 days, there have been violent battles between South-West African Territory Force and Namibian forces.

Press sources say that the president of the UN Security Council, Aleksandr Belonogov, should meet with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss the possibilities which could help end the fighting.

Moments before, SWAPO, Namibia, and Zimbabwe—the latter nation now presides over the Nonaligned Movement—asked the United Nations for its efforts to help clear up the confusing situation in northern Namibia, which has been the scene of violent clashes for the past 3 days.

The supreme leader of the SWAPO, Sam Nujoma, and the foreign minister of Zimbabwe, Nathan Shamuyarira, have asked the United Nations about the authorization of a South African battalion to assist Namibian police.

South Africa Admits Attack

FL0304222289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2147 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Major General (Hans Dreyer), chief of the South African forces in the Namibian region of (Koiboid), today admitted that four South African fighter planes attacked sectors of northern Namibia just recently.

The racist high commander added that the Namibian forces, controlled by South Africa [as heard], lost at least seven combat vehicles of the (Turbogor) type during the armed clashes taking place in northern Namibia. These clashes are increasing in intensity.

The Namibian national liberation movement, SWAPO, declared that the confrontations began when groups showing their support for SWAPO were attacked by the South African-controlled police.

Sam Nujoma, supreme leader of SWAPO in Namibia, said that the government's report of 124 casualties in northern Namibia may actually be higher.

The racist South African regime is causing the turmoil in northern Namibia to detain the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 for the independence of Namibia, said the national workers' union of that territory.

The masses of the Namibian proletariat have demanded that the United Nations immediately increase their military presence in northern Namibia, and accused South Africa of violating the tripartite agreements by reorganizing two battalions of the territorial army. This army had been demobilized.

The clashes in northern Namibia show that the 7,500 UN soldiers, whose budget was approved since the beginning of UN Security Council Resolution 435, are needed, said the Namibian workers' union.

It was reported that the United Nations' special envoy to Namibia, (Amarci Akisadi), traveled to Zimbabwe to talk with SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma.

Deputy Foreign Minister on Policy of Change

AU0304131989 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 3 Apr 89 p 2

[Monica Riedler dispatch: "Verbal Policy of Change in Cuba"]

[Text] Havana—In a talk with DIE PRESSE, Cuba's Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Viera Linares announced an opening up of the Cuban system: "apertura informativa" (informational opening up). "We need more discussion in our society. Criticism is welcome, also by journalists in newspapers." These are unusual words in a country where everything and everyone, down to the shoeshine boys, is controlled by the state and, naturally, the 17 largest newspapers are also published by the state.

Why is this change—at least verbal—taking place just now? "For a long time Cuba has been under strong pressure from the outside; we were concerned about our safety, and the press was an important instrument in this process. Today," Viera Linares stresses, "we feel much safer, even regarding criticism."

The deputy foreign minister categorically denies that this is a reaction to Gorbachev's course, which is particularly admired by Cuba's youth. A Soviet solution to Cuban problems is naive and stupid. "Besides, we have never been Moscow's puppet, and there has not been any pressure from there over the past 30 years, either."

Does Cuba feel that its own leeway in acting is restricted by the rapprochement between the two superpowers? "Absolutely not. We are supporting this process, which leads to disarmament and peace." Viera Linares cannot imagine that the Soviets would do something that might harm their friends. "This would not be prudent." At the conclusion of Gorbachev's visit, a Soviet-Cuban friendship treaty will also be signed.

Central American Solution Not With the Help of the United States

In Cuba, much more consideration is given to how the United States interprets this development, in particular concerning its position toward the developing countries and Latin America. "The United States does not want to recognize their full independence, in particular not that of smaller countries like Cuba and Nicaragua," Viera Linares criticizes.

The solution for the Sandinist state can arise only from the peace negotiations between the five Central American states, not from the United States, which maintains the most expensive guerrilla army in the world in the form of the contras.

As long as Nicaragua is subjected to external aggression, Cuba will support the "companeros" in Managua. "But we do not have any troops there, only military advisers, and we are willing to withdraw them if an agreement envisages this." Viera Linares cannot imagine that Gorbachev will urge the cessation of Cuban aid to the Sandinists—as the United States hopes. "I do not think that this is a topic for discussion."

How does Linares see Cuba's position in international politics in the 31st year after Castro came to power? "A country which, through its foreign policy, has been able to gain a lot of respect among the industrial states and developing countries." And this, as Viera Linares adds with satisfaction, is "despite the political and economic blockade by the United States."

Officials Discuss Country's Human Rights Stand

FL0404031389 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0136 GMT 2 Apr 89

[By NOTIMEX correspondent Rene Sanchez Huitron]

[TExt] Havana, 1 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Cuban Minister of Justice Arnaldo Escalona said today that sanctions imposed on a group of Cubans who protested over alleged human rights violations was an unusual case with no special implications.

Escalona added that in his 5 years as minister of justice, this is the first time that protests of this type, which he described as crimes, have taken place. He insisted that this was an isolated case.

Last Wednesday, Cuban police temporarily arrested eight members of the self-styled Party of Progress for having distributed the clandestine newspaper FRANQUEZA in the streets of the capital.

Additionally, the minister explained that the group headed by Aristarco Sanchez Santacruz and called the Human Rights and National Reconciliation Commission, has not applied for legalization in line with the 1987 Law of Association.

During a news conference, the Cuban official explained that the group has not taken the appropriate steps to be able to propagate its ideas in its own organ as a legal entity. He reiterated that the sanctions imposed on the group have nothing to do with freedom of the press.

Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa, head of the Cuban human rights delegation in Geneva, said at the news conference that the Law of Association in Cuba, promulgated in 1987, establishes that a group can request registration if it is comprised of a minimum of 30 people. He therefore urged the human rights group to comply with this requirement.

Regarding the insistent charges made against Cuba by the United States within the UN Human Rights Commission, Roa said that Washington's pretended concern over human rights in Cuba demonstrates its total hypocrisy.

Roa added that human rights cannot be made a political issue as former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and President George Bush have done. He said that the two administrations are engaged in a political vendetta against Cuba.

Cuba, he said, has expressed its concern within the nonaligned countries over the impact that the foreign debt crisis has had on human rights. It has therefore called for the implementation of economic and social rights in Third World countries.

Roa said that, in view of the position recently adopted by the United States at the United Nations and the statements made by the George Bush administration, the human rights battle between the two countries will continue in the future.

The United States will not change its policy regarding human rights in Cuba. If it wished to do this, the Cuban vice foreign minister said, it would revise the line it has taken to date and would change its ambassadors of defeat like Armando Valladares.

On the eve of the arrival in this country of Mikhail Gorbachev, leader of the USSR, Escalona said that the USSR and Cuba have been exchanging views on the humanization of the prison system.

Escalona said that at present, prisoners in Cuba have the opportunity to work on social projects and even receive a salary. Before the Revolution, they could not have visitors, but now a prisoner can freely see his spouse and family.

Finally, Escalona said that human rights is a matter for international cooperation rather than political rivalry. He noted that Cuba is engaged in talks on the subject with U.S. allies such as France and Italy, as well as with neutral countries like Switzerland and Sweden.

Dominican Republic

Judge Attempts To Impede Legal Proceedings

FL3103135389 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0933 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice said that the Second Criminal Court's judge should issue the habeas corpus for former President Salvador Jorge Blanco. The Supreme Court of Justice accepted the declinatory application [solicitud declinatoria] written by the district's public prosecutor.

The High Tribunal declined to accept the protection appeal which would permit Dr Jorge Blanco to be cleared by Judge Ernesto Ricor Regush. With this measure, the Supreme Court of Justice accepted the challenge that Public Prosecutor Alechi Joaquin Castillo wrote for Judge Oseogusto Morillo Pena.

On various occasions, the defense council of Dr Jorge Blanco manifested its concern on the High Tribunal's delay and failing to reply to Dr Castillo's challenge.

The district's public prosecutor asked for the tribunal's rejection of the appeal claiming that Judge Morillo Pena was attempting to impede the judicial action undertaken against the former president.

Government Aware of Rice Storage Area

FL3103143189 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0935 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] President Balaguer has said that if the government has to freeze the prices on primary goods it will do so whenever he deems it necessary.

The chief of state said that with the commercialization of rice, the only thing that is being stressed is speculation and not an actual scarcity of the product.

Balaguer affirmed that the government knows where there is a great quantity of the grain stored so it will import the product whenever the situation requires it. He said that the government's efforts to reduce prices are being slowed by the speculations that are being spread by those who intervene in the commercialization of the goods.

Grenada

Prime Minister Responds to Judiciary Critics

FL0304230689 Bridgetown CANA in English 1729 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 3, CANA—Prime Minister Herbert Blaize has denied that the Grenada Judiciary is a puppet of the United States and says his government remains committed to upholding its independence.

He made the comments in a weekend broadcast to the nation in response to several letters sent to government challenging the independence of the court of appeal of Grenada, and the conditions under which 17 former military and government officials are held at the top security, Richmond Hill Prisons.

The 17 persons are now on death row awaiting the outcome of an appeal, after being convicted in 1986 for the murder three years earlier of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop during a bloody coup.

Blaize said government received letters from university professors, as far away as Australia, and from just about every conceivable "communist institution" in the world.

He said the letters often referred to the Court of Appeal as being a puppet of the United States, and claimed the 17 convicted were not receiving justice. "What is significant is that all those letters are almost identical, suggesting that they had been distributed from one source..." he told Grenadians.

The Grenada leader reiterated his government's contention that it would always "jealously guard" the independence of the Grenada Judiciary.

"There has been no occasion on which any member of this government has ever attempted to influence the course of justice," he remarked.

Blaize reminded the letter writers that the court now hearing the appeal was the same one set up under the People's Revolutionary Government, of which the 17 were a part.

As such, he said it was ridiculous to accuse the court of being a puppet of Washington. "The court as constituted has remained unchanged from its beginning because we respect the integrity and legal ability of its members," he added.

Blaize also defended the guards at the Richmond Hill Prison from criticisms levelled at them, and accused writers of the letters of wanting the prison wardens to treat the 17 as "special prisoners" to be given treatment better than others. "We cannot accept this type of reasoning," he said.

He said the Grenada Government would not reply to all "the falsehoods, contemptuous, and sometimes libellous accusations made in the letters to us. Those who demand that certain actions be taken must establish their authority to be able to demand that a sovereign government responds to their directives," Blaize said.

Party Leader Resolves Conflict With Blaize

FL0304195489 Bridgetown CANA in English 2029 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] St George's, Grenada, April 1, CANA—Dr Keith Mitchell, the political leader of the ruling New National Party [NNP], said in an interview Saturday that relations between himself and Prime Minister Blaize, which deteriorated after the last convention in January, are now much better. "Last week was my happiest week," Mitchell said, "and I am very optimistic that NNP will now move forward in unity and confidence."

In a straight fight for the post of political leader, Mitchell defeated Blaize at the party's annual convention. Since then, Mitchell has said openly that there has been considerable disagreement between himself and the prime minister and he accused Blaize of being angry over his defeat.

Indication of that anger, Mitchell said, is in the fact that, just two days after the convention, and without consultation with him, Blaize appointed Ben Jones, minister of agriculture and tourism, to be deputy prime minister. "When we are angry," Mitchell said, "the best of us do not act in the most statesman-like way. I told the prime minister that, if he had asked me, I would have agreed to Ben's appointment."

In today's interview, Mitchell, who holds the portfolio of minister of works, stressed that the personal relationship between himself and Blaize had always been good.

There is no animosity; the problem lies only in that he and the prime minister did not agree on "the way forward." There have been continuing frank and open talks between himself and the prime minister, Mitchell said, and there was now much greater understanding and agreement.

Also, he and the prime minister have agreed on a "formula" for fixing the date of elections which must take place by March of 1990. Mitchell said there was agreement also that something must be done to correct the public perception of chaos and disunity within the NNP.

He declined to say what that "something-to-be-done" was but added that he and the prime minister were now much closer to reaching agreement on "the way forward." Mitchell said he believed the NNP will soon be reflecting a much better image than the one which developed after the convention.

Haiti

Reportage on Coup Attempt in Port-au-Prince

Avril Issues Statement

FL0304155689 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1030 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpts] On the night of 1 April there was quite a lot of shooting in Port-au-Prince, with the population anxiously wondering what was going on. There were all kinds of rumors circulating that same night to the effect that there had been a coup d'etat. At dawn, certain Port-au-Prince radio stations announced this news, and even said General Avril had been arrested and taken to the Leopards Corps headquarters.

It was also reported that Interior Minister Colonel Acedius Saint-Louis had also been arrested. The radios also announced that Col Saint-Louis' house had been ransacked.

One of our teams verified this. The team saw bullet holes in the walls of the colonel's house. We also noted that some soldiers had taken off with a jeep belonging to the colonel.

This news had spread rapidly throughout Port-au-Prince; then, at around midday, a group of soldiers from the Presidential Guard said over Radio Liberte that the news report was false and that Gen Avril was still president. People then didn't know whom to believe. Then came reports to the effect that all flights to and from Port-au-Prince out of Mais Gate Airport had been canceled. Our team went to the airport too, where it saw that all flights for the day had indeed been canceled. [passage omitted]

At around 1700, the first official report on the situation was issued. [passage omitted]

It was after midnight when Gen Avril appeared over the national television station to speak to the nation in both French and Creole. President Avril pointed the finger at the officers who had tried to stage the coup, who, he said, had tried to destabilize his government out of personal ambition. Avril made an appeal to members of the Armed Forces, political leaders—whom he asked to analyze the matter sensibly—and Haiti's partners.

We will have you listen to this message.

[Begin Avril recording, in Creole] People of Haiti, today, once again, God has saved Haiti! Certain members of the Army allowed their heads to be turned by great ambitions. They tried, last night during the night, to overthrow the government which I've been directing since 17 September 1988, in the capacity of commander in chief of the Army and president of the government.

While we're killing ourselves doing everything we can to establish democracy in Haiti and to get the nation's economy to take off, here, once again, was a new threat to take away Haiti's stability.

I would, on this occasion, like to launch an appeal to the entire nation. We ask all citizens to work together with us, in peace and unity, so that we can attain our objective: to implant and solidify as much of the framework that supports democracy as is necessary in order for the nation's political institutions to function properly and to establish, in Haiti, a government worthy of the name—where as long as you are within your rights, you shouldn't have any problems.

Today's events have shown that to build a democracy in Haiti, with the country in its present condition, is a tough job—and one that will take time. However, we think that if everyone gets together, we will be successful, despite all the problems we might encounter along the way.

All the nation's sectors, especially heads of political parties or organizations, should look at things in a practical way when they make political analyses of the country's situation. In this way, they will be able to help us accomplish our mission.

We think that all foreign partners—our friends who, like us, are interested in seeing democracy spread in peace and freedom—should understand us and give us moral support, so that we can redress the country's economy and render more solid our nation's political stability.

The country needs all its children and the support of all its friends in order for us to be able to provide a little glimmer of hope for our people, who are living in extreme poverty.

The 17 September government is keeping the promises it made to build in Haiti, peaceably, a more just society, a society where people are out to help one another and to build a foundation capable of supporting the democracy we want to establish in Haiti, so as never to go back to what is called a dictatorship. This is the only way the Haitian people will ever be able to live well.

Officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers, rural police agents, and section chiefs of the Haitian Army: I believe in our Army. On 17 September the soldiers of the Haitian Armed Forces demanded that I work to make the Army an institution in which all of the members could walk the streets with their heads held high. Today, they have just proven that they have staying power, that they are standing fast, in a disciplined and honorable manner.

The population is expecting us to do our duty. And we, too, will do whatever we have to do to respond to the cry the population has addressed to us.

Let us march forward together, for the nation, for the fatherland [a quote from the lyrics of the Haitian national anthemn]. The Lord will always be with us.

Thank you. [end recording]

(?It is reported) that this coup attempt originated in the Leopards Battalion. We add that when a unit from the Presidential Guard went to get Gen Avril at the international airport—where a Leopards Corps detachment had had time to take him—the soldiers from the Presidential Guard arrested Colonel Himmler Rebus, the commander of the Leopards Battalion, who was leading the detachment that had taken the general to the international airport. Col Rebus was taken to the National Palace, guarded by soldiers loyal to the president of the military government. [passage omitted]

Demonstrators Want Rebus

FL0304170989 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1153 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Monitored in progress—live]

[Text] [Mobile unit reporter Morisson] ...a big flaming barricade, and they are now heading up toward town. They are waving small tree branches and they are also carrying many clubs. One of these people whom we questioned told us that the reason they were demonstrating was to demand the release of Colonel Rebus. So that is the situation.

These people have almost reached the final curve where they can turn up toward Delmas 95, which leads to the Petion-Ville road. Some of them are also carrying tires. They are probably going to set up barricades at the intersection of Delmas 95 and Delmas 105. There are both men and women in the crowd. [passage omitted]

The time is 1155. We have more. Marie-Josee? [Soleil reporter]

[Marie-Josee] Morisson, we just spoke to Colonel Georges Valcin. He informed us that he is no longer chief of the Port-au-Prince Police. He was transferred to the Army General Headquarters this morning. However, Col Vacin informs us that he has never been mixed up in drugs, contraband, or any coup d'etat plot. [passage omitted]

More Shooting; Airport Closed

FL0304152889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1444 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Monitored in progress—live]

[Text] [Yves-Marie, Soleil reporter] ...palace guards. However, earlier reports spoke of the Leopards Corps allegedly blocking the airport. However, we don't think it is the Leopards Corps, because we didn't see a single Leopard Corps soldier in the area. Thus all the tap-taps [public transportation vehicles] are having to turn at the intersection of the road to the north and the airport road. And there are no flights at all this morning, so to people who were going to travel this morning—there are no planes at all. The only planes out of the airport are the planes that are always parked on the tarmac there. The people are standing around in the vicinity with their baggage in their vehicles. They are waiting around to find out exactly when the airport is going to be unblocked. This is all we have for the time being. We will follow events and inform you as soon as there is anything new.

[Reporter] Thanks a lot, Yves-Marie. The other report we have received is that a group of Leopards also tried to break into the national television station at around 0900 [this morning]. They reportedly fired a few bursts of gunfire in front of the television station, and for the time being, soldiers from Fort Dimanche have reportedly gone to help guard the television station.

We have also learned that in Petion-Ville, Leopards drove by and fired off some shots in front of the banks and in the streets, and allegedly asked open businesses to close. This created a panic in certain streets, particularly on Delmas Road at around 0930, where bursts of gunfire were being fired in front of the national television station.

Leopards 'Occupying' Airport

FL0304165889 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Members of the Leopards Corps have caused panic in Petion-Ville, Delmas, and the international airport, which they are occupying. According to statements made to our reporters, the Leopards want to prevent the departure of their commander, Himmler Rebus, who is allegedly one of the authors of the aborted coup and who is currently being held under guard at the National Palace.

According to the Leopards occupying the airport, Rebus is going to depart immediately, and they want to prevent this departure. We will give you details in a moment.

Deadline Set for Rebus Release

FL0304190189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At approximately 0800 there was gunfire around the Petion-Ville marketplace which caused a panic. The vendors quickly fled the marketplace. The panic then spread to Delmas, where members of the Leopards Corps, which was at the origin of yesterday's coup attempt against Avril, were seen at the building which houses the national radio and television stations, the police traffic department—and this portion of road is closed to traffic—and the international airport, where the road is blocked as of the turn-off that leads to the Dumez [a French company] offices.

The factories along the airport road have had to send their workers home.

The soldiers presently occupying the international airport told us that they have decided to prevent Colonel Rebus from leaving. Col Rebus is allegedly one of the authors of yesterday's aborted coup and is allegedly being held under guard at the National Palace. Reportedly he is soon to be sent out of the country, say these fellow Leopards. Mobile unit 19 is currently with one of these Leopards at the international airport. Come in, mobile 19.

[Mobile unit 19—live, in Creole] [Passage omitted] Well, will you tell us why you are here, risen up? I see you have heavy weapons [words indistinct] in your hands, and all that. Why are you here at the airport?

[Unidentified speaker] Because we have heard that General Avril has taken measures to send the colonel [Rebus] into exile. We don't want him to. We insist on getting the colonel back this very day. If necessary, if by 1700 [2100 GMT] we don't have the colonel, Avril will be so (?unhappy) to see this country that he will cry tears.

[Reporter] Can the civilian population go about its business normally?

[Speaker] We have nothing against civilians, nor do we have anything against other soldiers like ourselves. We just are determined to get the colonel back.

[Reporter] What exactly happened yesterday? Can you tell our listeners briefly?

[Speaker] Well, there was a coup d'etat, because we can't suffer any longer. We have suffered too much, and he [Avril] has done too much to us to make us suffer, too. He has done too much to us. We can't stand it anymore. We are in tears. We were going to (?effect) a coup d'etat (?to get rid of him), and we insist that he must go. [passage omitted] We have given 1700 as the deadline. This means that if we haven't gotten the colonel back at 1701, or even 1700 and a few seconds, (?Avril won't like the way he sees) Haiti. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Did you release the people you were holding hostage at the [Leopards] camp?

[Speaker] Yes, we sent them those people. And now we insist that he send us the colonel. That is the reason we sent him those people.

[Reporter] There you have it, studio. Do you have any questions that you want to ask him?

[Studio] Can you ask him (?what) he (?thinks) Gen Avril intends to do?

[Reporter, to soldier] OK, you heard him. Go ahead and answer.

[Speaker] Well, he knows, deep down inside, that the colonel was specifically involved with him, personally [te an afe ave'l]. Well, in fact, to be more precise, he can't stand us [pa vle we nou], you see? He can't stand us. We all know this. And he knows that we can't stand him either—the same way he hates us, you see? This means that (?we feel that) we can't work with him, and we won't work with him anymore, either!

[Studio] Is this an ultimatum? Does this mean that if the general does not step down today, they will take up arms against him?

[Speaker] We won't take up arms against him. Either he takes all the [words indistinct] in our hands, all the rifles in our hands, and [words indistinct].

[Reporter] There you have it. Those were statements by one of the Leopards Corps soldiers who are at present occupying Mais Gate International Airport. [passage omitted] This is mobile unit 19, from Mais Gate International Airport for Radio Metropole.

[Announcer, in Creole] It is 1212 and 20 seconds. We ourselves had other statements from other soldiers presently occupying the international airport. We had contacted them, and they told us that what they wanted was to prevent Col Rebus from being sent out of the country, as they claim Gen Avril wanted to do to him. We will listen to the statements they made to us.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Second unidentified speaker] ...unit, [words indistinct] for the entire Haitian people, and that we do not agree with Avril. We demand that he give us back Col Rebus immediately. If he does not hand him over, we will trash [kraze] the airport's gasoline (?tanks), and (?besides, the airport will be trashed) quickly! [passage omitted] As for shooting, we won't shoot, as long as they don't shoot at us, of course. The only thing we want is for Col Himmler Rebus, even if he were to no longer be in the Army, to be allowed to live in Haiti, and for them to provide proper security for him, so that he won't go anywhere else. That is our mission. That is all we want. We aren't at war. We are not going to shoot—if they don't shoot at us, of course. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Why did you take over the airport?

[Second speaker] Why the airport?

[Reporter] Uh-huh.

[Second speaker] Because if he goes anywhere, he has to go through the airport.

[Reporter] Have you already talked to the Avril people? Have you tried to hold talks with them, to tell them what you expect of them?

[Third unidentified speaker] We sent messages to them by telephone and by radio.

[Reporter] What did they say?

[Third speaker] They have not yet made any suggestions.

Further Details of Coup Attempt

FL0304213589 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] During the morning of 2 April, in the midst of the events, five persons close to President Avril were taken hostage by the soldiers stationed at the Leopards' camp. These people include General Avril's son, two of his brothers, Interior and National Defense Minister Acedius Saint-Louis, and one of Saint-Louis' sons, and they were finally released late in the evening.

We recognize Gen Avril's authority, and are awaiting the release of Colonel Himmler Rebus—a Leopard corporal has stated—without knowing, however, if the colonel, who is currently being guarded militarily at the National Palace, might be allowed to leave the palace soon or not. Leopards Corps commander, Colonel Rebus, is considered the principal instigator of the coup attempt. [passage omitted]

The Leopard corporal said that it was the battalion's former deputy commander, Colonel Lionel Claude, who had taken the hostages in his car, shortly after two Presidential Guard armored vehicles showed up at the Leopard camp. [sentence as heard] The corporal also said that Gen Avril's wife and (?his) mother-in-law, held prisoners at the camp during the night, had been released in the morning.

Finally, this corporal said he knew nothing about the reasons for this attempted coup d'etat.

The coup failed when Presidential Guard armored vehicles intercepted, Sunday morning on the airport road, a convoy carrying Gen Avril—who was thus saved by the soldiers of this unit, which had remained faithful to him. [passage omitted]

That was, then, the account of yesterday's abortive coup d'etat. [passage omitted]

It was exactly 20 minutes past midnight when Gen Avril made his appeal to the Haitian nation from the National Palace in Port-au-Prince, just a few hours after the abortive coup against his government. [passage omitted]

Demonstrations Continue

FL0304204289 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in Creole 1827 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ...they are going down Delmas Road, along which they are installing tires, in order to erect barricades. They are setting barricades along Delmas Road itself, as well as across certain roads leading to Delmas Road, for example across the entrance to Delmas 65.

The other thing I can point out is that the only military presence in the area are the Leopards—soldiers from the Leopards Corps, who are seen going up and down the area now and then. Every time they come by [words indistinct] support of the population, which salutes them, waves at them, and [words indistinct].

What are the demonstrators demanding? First of all, the departure of the Prosper Avril government. They are also demanding the release of Himmler Rebus. Mobile unit 15, WJL [not further identified] is going to point out other things to you, still along the Delmas Road.

[Mobile unit 15—live] [Passage omitted] For the time being, there are tires burning on Delmas Road, and the demonstrators are expressing their dissatisfaction with General Avril. [passage omitted] As we talk to you here, the demonstrators are continuing to lay tires, which they will then proceed to set on fire.

We also say to people trying to go up [Delmas Road toward Petion-Ville] that the road is really impassable. [passage omitted] We will turn things back over to mobile unit 20, who has something to add.

[Mobile unit 20—live] We point out that there is a big barricade near the national television station, and another barricade in front of National Dry Cleaning.

As I said, the only military vehicles patrolling the area are military vehicles from the Leopards' camp. [passage omitted] [crowd sounds audible in the background] This has been mobile units 15 and 20 from Delmas Road for Radio Metropole. [end report]

Situation 'Very Tense'

FL0304205989 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1927 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The demonstrators are chanting antigovernment and anti-Avril slogans. The streets are now deserted, and the situation is very tense in our capital.

The first barricades in Petion-Ville have now been reported—more precisely, at the entrance to the El Rancho Hotel, in front of the Red Carpet [an art gallery at the entrance to Petion-Ville]. A big, flaming barricade has been set up there by a different group of demonstrators in Petion-Ville. Barricades have also been erected near the cemetery, and the two entrances to Petion-Ville are at present blocked off. The Djoumbala entrance is also blocked off.

Furthermore, the first shooting in the Delmas area is being reported, as is the arrival of tanks in that area, where we will immediately hear from mobile unit 20, Rothschild Francois Junior, who is presently in the Delmas area, so that he can give us the latest information about what is going on in that area. Rothschild? [passage omitted]

We have here a press release from the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH]. The PDCH, as a responsible party and justly alarmed by the confused current situation in Haiti, especially in the capital where there could be clashes between different Army corps if the situation continues to deteriorate, appeals to the patriotism of those who hold the key to the events to abide by Article 149 of the Constitution, in the person of one of the members of the Court of Cassation—any member other than the court's president—in order to spare the nation a sad repetition of the Vespers of 25 May 1957, by applying a constitutional solution. [passage omitted]

We are now in contact with mobile 20, which is in Delmas. [passage omitted]

[Mobile unit 20—live] Thanks, Nancy. As I talk to you right now, Dessalines Barracks soldiers [sound of repeated gunfire and crowd noises audible in the background] are doing a whole lot of shooting, and they [not further identified] have erected a roadblock (?just below) the intersection to the airport, where they are shooting... [break in transmission] in the area. [Break in transmission] ...because we can't see exactly what is going on. We have had to take shelter. [passage omitted]

[Nancy Roc] Mobile 20 has a technical problem. He tells us that it is not only the Leopards Corps that is in the streets now. Other military are in the streets too, now—the tanks and armored personnel carriers from the Dessalines Barracks. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that both access roads [as heard, there are really three such roads] to Petion-Ville are now cut off. The Djoumbala entrance is also cut off. And all along the Delmas Road, from Petion-Ville to Delmas 19, there are flaming barricades and demonstrators. We will inform you every half hour over Radio Metropole. And of course the 1800 newscast will have all the details. [passage omitted]

This is Nancy Roc, for Radio Metropole.

3 Apr 'Panic' in Petion-Ville

FL0304171589 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1533 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Monitored in progress—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Mobile unit 19] Indeed, mobile 17, there was a panic this morning, which led to a clearing of the streets around the Petion-Ville marketplace. We noted that a number of merchants have had time to gather up their wares, and we noticed parents in front of certain schools. This happened after a group of men in olive green driving around in an ivory pickup truck asked people to get off the streets. That is what caused the panic.

However, for the time being, everything seems to be back in order—except that there are not as many vendors as usual around the Petion-Ville marketplace. That is what Petion-Ville is like for the moment.

[Mobile unit 17] Thanks, mobile 19. I point out to Metropole listeners that while traffic and activities may be normal in downtown Port-au-Prince, in the Delmas area there is a clear slowdown in activities, with a reduction in the number of public transportation vehicles that effect the downtown Port-au-Prince to Delmas run. On the airport road, the same thing is noted. [passage omitted] We are now driving along Delmas road, where traffic is indeed greatly reduced. [passage omitted]

[Mobile unit 20] [Passage omitted] We note that Sogebank's offices on Delmas, usually open at this time, are closed. Things are almost the same at Citibank [sentence as heard]. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] [Passage omitted] For the moment, according to mobile units 17 and 19, the road leading to the airport is blocked by olive-green-clad military, and closed to traffic, as is the lower part of the Delmas Road, in front of the Vehicle Traffic Department. [passage omitted]

Revolt 'Under Control'

PA0404050489 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0357 GMT 4 Apr 89

[By Edwige Balutansky]

[Excerpts] Port-au-Prince, 3 Apr (REUTER)—A military revolt by members of an elite Haitian battalion, who threatened to destroy the capital today, is apparently under control and, according to a leading official, the troops have returned to their garrisons.

"Everything is calm now and the rebel soldiers are no longer in the streets," a source told REUTER.

The members of the Leopard Battalion rebelled after their commander Colonel Himmler Rebus was arrested for heading a foiled coup attempt on Sunday.

In a statement prepared for state television, whose installations were held by the rebels for several hours, the government appealed to Haitians for unity and for an end to violence.

"The special situation we are experiencing requires the participation of all sectors of society to achieve peace and to avoid vengeance," the document stated.

The document did not say whether the crisis had been controlled, but the official claimed that the rebels have returned to their garrisons and no longer control the airport.

"The Leopards never controlled the airport. In fact, they only occupied the airport access roads. Since they have returned to their garrisons, they no longer control that area," the official noted. A member of the Leopard Battalion threatened on Radio Haiti to "reduce the city to ashes" if Col Himmler Rebus was not released by 1700 (2100 GMT).

The deadline expired without any major confrontation, except for a clash in which one soldier was killed. According to diplomats, only 100 troops participated in the foiled coup.

However, the situation in Port-au-Prince remained tense, and uncertainty prevailed. "It is too soon to say that it is over," a Western diplomat stated.

Rebus and Colonel Philippe Biamby, former commander of the Presidential Guard, were arrested after the thwarted coup against the military government of General Prosper Avril, who took power 6 months ago.

Avril spoke on state television Sunday night to announce that the attempted coup, apparently related to discontent caused by the removal Thursday of four important officiers, had been foiled.

But Leopard units seized control of the airport and blocked access routes between Port-au-Prince and Petion-Ville, 6 miles south of the capital, on Monday. The airport was closed today for the 2d straight day since the rebellion broke out. [passage omitted]

Although diplomatic sources believe it is premature to say the rebellion has ended, they do not believe the government has been seriously threatened. "We believe Avril's position will not be threatened by these actions, because there is only a small group opposed to him," a diplomat stated.

The government official said that the occupation of the state radio and television installations by soldiers of the rebel battalion had ended. [passage omitted]

'Violent Armed Confrontation'

LD0404095589 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Following the attempted coup in Haiti on Sunday [2 April] violent armed confrontation broke out yesterday in the suburbs of Port-au-Prince where an elite battalion continues to resist, and demands the release of their chief, Colonel Rebus, commander of the Leopards Battalion and instigator of the coup. At least four soldiers have been killed in fighting involving an armored car of the Presidential Guard.

Rebus Sent to Dominican Republic

PA0404123189 Paris AFP in Spanish 1138 GMT 4 Apr 89

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 4 Apr (AFP)—Port-au-Prince National Palace military sources informed AFP that Colonel Himmler Rebus, former commander of the antiguerrilla Leopards Corps and alleged leader of the recent coup d'etat attempt against Haitian President General Prosper Avril, was transported by land to the Dominican Republic Monday night [3 April].

Rebus was accompanied by former Presidential Guard commander Colonel Philippe Biamby and Lieutenant Colonel Leonce Qualo of the general garrison, both of whom were implicated in the attempted coup d'etat.

The three officers were removed from the Haitian Army, according to the same source, which confirmed that the Leopards Corps members occupying the Port-au-Prince International Airport had withdrawn at 2000 on Monday.

Haitian Priest To Head Radio Soleil

FL0304201189 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] A new board of directors is supposed to be installed at any moment now at Radio Soleil, the Catholic Church's radio station. Retiring Director Father Hugo Triest will be replaced by Father Anousse Chery, a Haitian. The installation ceremony should take place at any moment now. The radio station personnel are awaiting the arrival of the members of the Episcopal Conference.

New Administration Installed

FL0304214589 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Today, Friday, at around noon, Radio Soleil's episcopal committee—made up of Msgrs Emmanuel Constant, Petion Laroche, and Ligonde—installed a new administrative committee to head Radio Soleil. This new committee is made up of Father Anousse Chery as director, Mr Joseph Louis as administrator, and Mr Georges Matin as accountant.

Father Annousse Chery works in the archdiocese as chancellor [chancelier]. He holds a doctorate in canon law.

The bishops introduced Mr Joseph Louis as a good, committed Christian.

Georges Matin was introduced as a big defender of the church who writes for several periodicals, such as the PETIT SAMEDI SOIR. He is a Belgian citizen. [passage omitted]

The bishops thanked Father Hugo and the Radio Soleil team for the work they did under a number of often difficult conditions, and they think the team has been very devoted over the past 10 years, even if sometimes there might have been mistakes.

The bishops said that the radio, like a little plant, should grow, and it is together with a very clear line that the radio will be able to fulfill its mission. However, in order for this to be done, stressed the bishops, there are two basic principles: the church doctrine and the radio's internal regulations. They said that as long as the team could follow those lines, they would have no problem with it. They would be good friends. However, if anyone was unable to conform, he would have to leave. [passage omitted]

Regarding the programs aimed at the masses, the bishops said they wouldn't touch them. However, the new team would sit down with the people responsible for these programs to see how they could do things better, to discuss the content of these programs. [passage omitted]

The radio station asked the bishop a few questions, and obtained a few answers. However, to the question as to whether (Ramotus) was going to return to the radio or not, they did not give a clear answer. They said: You will know what has been decided when the time comes.

They did not say what was going to happen to the other members of the administration. However, they said that the current section heads would have to sit down with the new committee to discuss matters other than administrative, for none of the members of the new committee know anything about radio.

Unions Fail To Agree on CEP Representative

FL0104153189 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The meeting of the union federations to decide on a representative to the Election Council went badly, and the federations were unable to reach agreement and send someone to be a member of the CEP [Provisional Election Council]. The deadline the justice minister had given the union federations specially ended at midnight last night. [passage omitted]

The Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers [CATH] never supported the decision for someone to be a member of the CEP. They maintained that the original CEP should be reinstated. That was the CATH's position.

FOS [Federation of Workers Trade Unions] maintained their decision to send Max Lelio Joseph to the Election Council, despite the fact that the other union federations felt Mr Joseph was not physically fit enough, saying he is too old and, especially, does not see well.

Jean-Claude Lebrun [its secretary general] said CATH-/CLAT [Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers affiliated with the Latin American Central Organization of Workers] had even suggested to FOS that FOS itself should choose someone in better physical shape, but FOS refused to negotiate.

[Begin Lebrun recording] [Passage omitted] Finally, when we of the CATH/CLAT saw that things were blocked, we tried to reach an agreement. We even said that we would withdraw the two candidates we had presented, and we asked FOS to choose from among themselves, someone else, more physically fit, whom we could support. That's when [FOS leader] Senat showed up. He wasn't even at the meeting. He had sent a representative, and he ruined the meeting. He came and said to all of them: Let's go.

He said they had already made their choice, and everything was settled—and that he didn't see the need for us to come and do a lot of talking, that it was a waste of time, and that he of the FOS could shoulder this responsibility by himself.

However, all the union federations agreed, upon separating, that the formal record, the minutes, would explain how things had gone, and they are going to sign this formal record to send to the Ministry of Justice. This means that no choice was made by the union federations.

If not, perhaps certain federations might think they sent a representative by themselves—especially FOS. However, we of the CATH/CLAT continue to consider that the union movement sent no representative. [end recording] [passage omitted]

We must also remind listeners that in a press release dated 25 March 1989, the National Federation of Haitian Students [Feneh] came to understand that the decision to send Mr Rony Durand to the CEP was made by the deans of the university faculties, all by themselves. Thus, the university committee and Feneh have nothing to do with this decision.

Also, the Protestant Federation announced that the Council of Churches had not contacted it, and thus had chosen, alone, a representative for the Protestant churches.

Also, the League of Former Political Prisoners abstained from participating in the choice of the representative of the human rights organizations, because it said it felt that the conditions for organizing elections in Haiti have not yet been met.

The executive has announced its representative to the CEP: Dr Joseph l'Esperance.

The Episcopal Conference has also announced its representative: Jean Antoine Auguste, who holds a doctorate in economics.

Government Questions 'Mistreatment' of Mexicans

PA0104162189 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Mexico will demand that the United States conduct a thorough investigation of the violence perpetrated against Mexican citizens on U.S. territory. Incidents of mistreatment of Mexican citizens have increased considerably at the border zone of Tijuana—Mexicali too, but basically in Tijuana—and San Diego. This already critical situation has become even worse since it is believed that U.S. policemen are involved in these illegal actions.

The Mexican ambassador to the United States, Gustavo Petricioli, will meet with U.S. Justice Department officials to hear details on these arbitrary actions against Mexican citizens. The government will also demand that an investigation be carried out to ascertain who is responsible.

PRC President To Visit 30 May-3 June

PA0104195189 Paris AFP in Spanish 0641 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Mar (AFP)—The Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat today issued a communique announcing that Chinese President Yang Shangkun will pay an official visit to Mexico from 30 May to 3 June.

The communique notes that this visit, the first to be made by a Chinese head of state to Mexico, is evidence of the interest that the governments of the PRC and Mexico have "in consolidating and expanding bilateral relations and in exploring new possibilities for cooperation within their shared Pacific Ocean basin."

Soviet Envoy on Gorbachev's Visit to Cuba

PA0204005289 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 29 Mar 89 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Report on interview with Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Rostislav A. Sergeyev by Marta Anaya in Mexico City; date not given]

[Excerpts] Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Cuba from 4 to 6 April [as published] marks a new phase in Soviet-Latin American relations.

Rostislav A. Sergeyev, Soviet ambassador to our country, said: "The message of this trip is that the USSR will be more active in its relations with Latin America. This is the beginning of a new phase in our relations with countries on this continent, including Mexico, of course."

The Soviet diplomat said that on this occasion, his country's leader will not visit Mexico or any other country on the American Continent. He insisted that there "will be changes in relations," and recalled that there has not been a visit to Cuba at such a high level in more than 20 years.

In his interview, Sergeyev commented on the preliminary results of the Soviet parliamentary elections and pointed out that one of the most important results is that it is evident that "the people want and need more profound changes through perestroyka." [passage omitted]

As for the Soviet leader's visit to Cuba, Sergeyev said that the primary purpose is to strengthen relations between the two countries. He pointed out the importance of personal contacts, explaining that "they can bring us closer much sooner."

He also recalled that in the past few years, Cuba has presented several initiatives at the international level that are important indications of its active involvement on the international political scene, particularly regarding economic issues.

As for implications that Cuba has rejected perestroyka, Sergeyev said that it is not possible for perestroyka to be replicated in other countries, that each country is unique and has its own psychology. He pointed out that Cuba and the USSR "share the same line in important matters."

Finally, the Soviet ambassador said that "in general, we advocate changes in international relations." He pointed out that Gorbachev's visit to Cuba should be viewed as a phase in the dynamic development of Soviet relations with Latin America.

He said in conclusion that the USSR will develop its relations with Latin American countries, in which a new attitude is evident, and that this, of course, includes Mexico.

Costa Rica

Arias Criticizes Ortega, Leaves for U.S.

PA0404013789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1722 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] San Jose, 3 Apr (ACAN - EFE)—Shortly before leaving for the United States and Canada today, Costa Rican President Oscar Arias criticized Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega over Ortega's "inflexibility" on the issue of negotiating the demobilization and relocation of the contras.

Arias left this morning for the United States and Canada to analyze with the governments of those two countries the problem of the Third World's foreign debt and the political situation in Central America, according to what he said before leaving.

At a news conference he held after transferring the reins of government to Second Vice President Jorge Manuel Dengo, the Costa Rican president acknowledged the "humbleness" the White House exhibited when it modified the previous U.S. Administration's policy for Central America.

Arias revealed that recently he discussed the issue of the former anti-Sandinist fighters with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and that he asked D'Escoto why Managua does not demonstrate a flexible attitude and negotiate the demobilization issue directly with the contras. Arias noted that he did not receive a positive response to this question.

The Costa Rican president said that "Washington has shown an opening" with the bipartisan agreement that limits the anti-Sandinist aid, an example the Sandinist government could well follow.

With that agreement, the U.S. Administration "is demonstrating a better disposition toward finding a way to resolve the problem."

President Arias repeated several times that "the Managua government must also demonstrate a will to yield and to facilitate a negotiated understanding" with the contras to relocate the 11,000 former fighters who are in Honduras.

Today, Arias will spend more than 12 hours in several Florida cities, where he is to hold four meetings with political and community leaders and two news conferences.

At midnight tonight, the Costa Rican president will travel to Washington aboard a U.S. Air Force plane made available by President George Bush.

After the transfer of power ceremony, Arias commented on the foreign debt problem, predicting his first meeting with President Bush will take place in conditions "very different" from those that prevailed in his meetings with President Ronald Reagan. Arias strongly objected to the previous U.S. Administration's Central American policy and was opposed to military aid for the Nicaraguan contras. He believes the bipartisan agreement Bush secured with the leaders of Congress has proven that his point of view is right.

Regarding the foreign debt problem, Arias said he will ask President Bush and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to cooperate with his country in its renegotiation of Costa Rica's standing debt with international private banks ($1.5 billion) and its bilateral debt with members of the Paris Club, which amounts to approximately $1 billion.

El Salvador

Ponce on Newsmen's Deaths, FMLN Actions

PA3103160589 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Report by Joel Burgos]

[Text] The Armed Forces chief of staff said today that five Air Force members guilty of murdering a journalist and critically injuring another have signed an unofficial deposition.

Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of the Armed Forces staff, said that Lieutenant Nelson Paul Solano Reyes, Subsergeant Efrain Guardado Parada, and Privates Cesar Caballero Pleites, Francisco Cesar Gonzalez, and Felix Rivas Gomez are being investigated in connection with the murder of Roberto Navas and the shooting of Luis Galdamez, both photographers for the British news agency REUTER.

[Begin Ponce recording] The national police are responsible for the case [words indistinct]. The personnel on duty at the roadblock have already signed a deposition. Also, the corporal involved in the death in San Miguel is being investigated. The national police are conducting an unofficial investigation and a report will be issued in due time to the appropriate court so a trial may take place. [end recording]

Referring to military actions, the Armed Forces chief of staff said that the Armed Forces expect an attack by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front guerrillas. The commander said the rebels' actions decreased after their attacks during the presidential election, but that they might now be planning an attack.

[Begin Ponce recording] I think the rebel actions decreased after the offensive they launched on 18-19 March, during the elections. Our units have not reported major clashes even though there have been some minor harassments. Logically, we believe the rebels are preparing an attack so they must be gathering their forces. Our intelligence units are trying to gather information. [end recording]

Col Emilio Ponce added that Defense Minister Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova talked with Dr Alfredo Cristiani, who won the presidential election, and asserted that the Armed Forces will not present a list of three candidates for the post of defense minister. Col Ponce said: Cristiani will have to choose the new defense minister.

PDC Issues Communique on Election Results

PA0104043189 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 30 Mar 89 p 21

[Christian Democratic Party communique: "PDC's Declaration in View of the 19 March Election Results"; date and place not given]

[Text] 1. The election campaign that ended on 19 March—which was the sixth popular vote since 1982—was a new expression of the democratic system established in El Salvador by President Jose Napoleon Duarte, with full backing from the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], the democratic sectors of our people, and the Armed Forces.

2. Because of threats, the transportation stoppage imposed by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) had an impact on the turnout of lower-income rural and urban voters, who are one of the PDC's bastions. The threats were one reason why there was a low voter turnout (less than half of the voting-age citizens went to the polls).

3. Objectively speaking, the stoppage, the threats, the bombs, the shoot-outs, the additional sabotage of public electricity and water services, and armed attacks contributed to the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] victory by making it difficult for potential PDC voters to go to the polls.

4. After seeing the official figures released by the Central Electoral Council [CCE], we acknowledge the victory, by absolute majority, of presidential candidate Alfredo Cristiani and vice presidential candidate Francisco Marino. We wish them success in their responsibilities for the country's common good.

5. While in the opposition, we Christian Democrats are indispensable proponents of the democratic process, for which we opened the way and granted facilities after 50 years of dictatorial rule in our country.

6. We demand a guarantee that the democratic process and such significant social gains as the agrarian reform and the nationalization of banking and foreign trade be continued and broadened.

7. For reasons beyond its control, and even though it took initiatives to open talks and negotiations with the FMLN, the Duarte administration was unable to achieve peace, which is our people's fundamental goal. For this reason, we have the moral authority to demand that the new government adopt, in the shortest possible time, the necessary political steps to achieve progress toward a settlement of the armed conflict using the support of vast sectors of our population.

8. We also demand that it show the utmost interest in complying with the Esquipulas II agreement and with the resolutions of the Central American summit held in La Paz Department, El Salvador, in February 1989, because they constitute invaluable contributions to peace in our area. The same is true of the Central American Parliament.

9. We Christian Democrats will firmly oversee and defend the democratic institutions as well as the individual, political, economic, and social rights of our entire population and most particularly those of our fellow party members and members of the democratic center. We will also report any and all attempts to make them targets of threats, abuse, or arbitrary actions. We will stand ready to defend our people's physical and moral integrity.

10. We expect the utmost respect to be shown for the Armed Forces' institutional functions, and we will strongly reject any attempt to place them at the service of partisan political interests or economically powerful groups.

11. We will continue to strive for a broad policy of alliances and openings for other democratic sectors to create a great democratic opposition front, along with all the independent groups and social organizations that supported us during the recently concluded election campaign.

12. We call on all party leaders and militants to maintain a high partisan morale and our traditional fighting spirit, and to thus ensure a climate of domestic peace, harmony, and unity capable of strengthening the party and forming the foundations for future mass victories and a return to power. Our commitment to serve the fatherland with dignity, honesty, seriousness, and with the purpose of achieving a national transformation continues.

13. To conclude, we want to convey our thanks and recognition to all our militants, activists, and leaders, as well as to all those who supported us with their vote and to those who were unable to do so.
"Onward Christian Democrats"
Because in politics principles count

PCN Leader on ARENA Efforts in Assembly

PA0104172589 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Hugo Carrillo Corleto, secretary general of the National Conciliation Party [PCN], has said that the PCN will not enter into alliances with political parties at the Assembly that may be aimed at destroying the democratic process.

The political leader expressed regret over the position ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] has adopted. ARENA is trying to control the Assembly by means of a strong-arm approach and an authoritarian mechanism [words indistinct] the Christian Democrats when they had control of the Assembly.

Carrillo, who has been characterized as a leading reformist within the PCN, has been threatened by the death squads within the last few months. In addition, his wife was attacked by ARENA followers before the presidential elections.

Zamora Doubts ARENA Campaign Promises

PA0104211989 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Report on interview with Democratic Convergence leader Ruben Zamora by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] Democratic Convergence [CD] leader Ruben Zamora said today that ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and the president-elect will have 18 months to demonstrate that their campaign promises will be kept.

Zamora said that during the election campaign ARENA made political and social promises that cannot be fulfilled and that in approximately 18 months it will be demonstrated that ARENA cannot resolve the country's problems.

[Begin recording] [Zamora] I think that in 18 months it will become evident that ARENA cannot resolve the country's problems. Some say that this will become evident even sooner. I do not believe that ARENA will be able to resolve the country's problems. First of all, they have offered housing programs; they have promised a social program that in fact would fail if they really try to implement it. The CD has been making rough estimates of what President-elect Alfredo Cristiani's housing and financial aid programs would cost; we have concluded that even if all the funds available from U.S. aid plus the entire Defense Ministry budget were to be used, that would still not be enough to finance their programs; therefore, these programs will not be implemented.

[Reporter] Are they being totally unrealistic?

[Zamora] Yes they are, and they want the people to be as unrealistic as they are. I believe that ARENA, that the ARENA administration, will face a big crisis. [end recording]

Zamora added that ARENA will have to confront many problems this year, including a worsening of the economic crisis. He said that the possibility of the ARENA administration's getting positive results will depend on the direction it takes from the very beginning. Zamora noted that if peace is achieved, then there would be a real chance of overcoming the crisis and of collaborating with other sectors. This implies the necessity of engaging in serious dialogue.

Zamora said in conclusion that the CD, despite the fact that it is a relatively new political party, held fourth place in the elections, and that this makes the CD a serious political option in the future.

MPSC Protests Arrest of Party Members

PA0304234489 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 30 Mar 89 p 13

["Open letter" from the Social Christian People's Movement to the Armed Forces High Command; issued in San Salvador on 30 March]

[Text] Since members and followers of our party who were poll watchers for the Democratic Convergence [CD] during the 19 March election were arrested, the leader of Military Detachment No 6 in Sonsonate Department has done everything possible to discredit the CD and intimidate our party's members and followers in that department.

Undemocratic political methods, typical of totalitarian regimes, have been used for this purpose with the cooperation of the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa]. These methods consist of extracting supposed "confessions" from those detained and televising these "confessions," signed and "conveniently edited," to the public. On 28 March, we viewed three Coprefa videotapes in which this nefarious practice was used.

The MPSC [Social Christian People's Movement] has this to say:

1. We condemn the method used by Military Detachment No 6 for extracting supposed confessions because this violates human rights. On 19 March, Paulino Ramos was detained and accused of possessing a counterfeit identification card. We ask: Why was he held incommunicado for 10 days and then presented to the public after he "confessed?" What was done to Romero during those 10 days that made him change his mind and implicate the CD? Is it not true that methods repeatedly denounced at human rights organizations, such as intimidation and physical and psychological torture, were used against him? Why does Military Detachment No 6 violate the law and hold a detainee for 10 days when the law mandates that a detainee must be brought before a judge or released within 72 hours of his arrest?

2. We report and condemn the violations of the law and human rights committed by Military Detachment No 6 during the arrest of CD poll watchers on 22, 23, and 27 March. We can clearly state the following:

a) Military Detachment No 6 is not part of the judicial branch and has, therefore, no authority to make arrests. The commander of this detachment abused his authority.

b) The citizens were arrested at their homes and the soldiers did not present any arrest warrants, which violates human rights and the Constitution.

c) The homes of some of the arrested individuals were broken into and the soldiers did not have any search warrants, which again violates the Constitution.

d) All the individuals arrested were held for more than the 72 hours that the law prescribes. Therefore, Military Detachment No 6 violated the law.

Gentlemen of the High Command: The aforementioned actions create a serious concern. Although all of these actions were conducted by a single military unit, the ill-natured and false publicity that Coprefa gave to those actions turned them into much more serious national issues. We are aware that the purpose of the Coprefa maneuver, which is in fact a political maneuver, is, first, to drive people away from being politically involved with the CD. Being a poll watcher is now a crime. We cannot help recalling the sad experiences that many of us experienced in the 1960's and 1970's, when after each election the opposition had to hide because of the arrests and repression. Second, the Coprefa's publicity stunt is intended to confuse people, because it links the CD to activities conducted by other organizations that resort to violence. The ill-nature of this stunt is clear, especially when in a video clip one of the "detainees" talks about having participated in the peace march [not further identified] when what the video clip shows is some people burning car tires. Both the Army and Coprefa know very well that no tires were burned during the peace march.

Finally, we want to point out that since ARENA's [Nationalist Republican Alliance] victory, some Army officers feel they now have carte blanche to outrage citizens and to try to close off the opposition's already limited range of action. The only thing that those undemocratic and arrogant attitudes augur is more human rights violations.

All that said, we state that the violations of the Constitution committed by Military Detachment No 6 members must be investigated and those responsible for those actions must be punished. We will continue struggling to end human right violations and abuses of power and to keep and expand our field of political activities.

The MPSC and the CD are already an indissoluble part of our people's struggle for peace, justice, and democracy.

MPSC Political Commision

San Salvador, 30 March 1989

Coprefa Reports Battle Statistics for March

PA0104215289 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1820 GMT 1 Apr 89

["Bulletin" from the Press Committee of the Armed Forces, Coprefa, issued in San Salvador; date not given—read by unidentified Coprefa official]

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorists sustained 343 casualties in clashes with the Army in March. During harassment operations and clashes between the Armed Forces and the FMLN, 163 died and 180 were wounded. The Armed Forces joint chiefs of staff also report the seizure of 95 rifles of various calibers, 29 automatic weapons, 8 rocket launchers, 7 machineguns, more than 5,500 rounds of ammunition, 300 fragmentation grenades, 475 booby traps, 150 blocks of TNT, 10 radios, and abundant material to manufacture bombs.

During this time frame, FMLN terrorists assassinated 53 peasants, kidnapped 37, and wounded more than 140 in various attacks and in using explosive devices throughout the country every day. Both the assassinations and the kidnappings were carried out because the victims refused to cooperate with that subversive organization.

The report also indicates that at least 20 houses sustained considerable damage during the terrorists' attacks against military garrisons located in several towns throughout the country. Moreover, at least six buses were burned by the terrorists, thus leaving many people without jobs. It is reprehensible that the FMLN continues to sabotage the electricity system, because these actions leave a large part of the Salvadoran population without potable water.

Another important development was the discovery of two FMLN workshops where the terrorists manufactured bombs. The Atlacatl Battalion found one of the workshops in Chalatenango Department, specifically in the town of Las Vueltas, where the military seized 2 quintals of steel staples, 1,000 pounds of nails, various materials used to manufacture bombs, and signs belonging to the CRIPDES [Christian Committee for Displaced Salvadorans] and the UNTS [National Union of Salvadoran Workers].

The Bracamonte Battalion located another workshop and confiscated 3 quintals of iron, 2 quintals of aluminum powder, 10 pounds of C-4 compound, 400 detonators, and a large amount of electrical wire. The discovery took place at (Tanque de Agua), Nejapa Jurisdiction, San Salvador Department.

Meanwhile, the 4th Infantry Brigade commander reported that the morale of several FMLN terrorist leaders is very low and that they want to surrender to the Armed Forces. Residents of the El Pital and Los Planes

Cantons, La Palma Jurisdiction, Chalatenango Department, are afraid that a terrorist purge will be launched. Nevertheless, terrorist leaders are waiting for the right moment to desert.

The same terrorist leaders, including one known as Nelson, said that some of his comrades gave up the armed struggle and went to Honduras after the elections. In this regard, 4th Infantry Brigade Commander Colonel Ciro Lopez Roque said that they will protect every terrorist who lays down his weapons and voluntarily turns himself in to the Army. He added that the terrorists will be given the necessary protection to enable them to rejoin the democratic process in our country and to help achieve peace for all Salvadorans.

FMLN Damages Helicopter in Usulutan

PA0204023389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0213 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Attention: Another helicopter has been damaged in the eastern sector of the country, only 24 hours after the downing of a helicopter and its crew in San Miguel Department. A helicopter was damaged in Llano Grande Canton, Jucuapa Jurisdiction, Usulutan Department. The report states that on 31 March, at 0830, a rebel group clashed with Arce Battalion soldiers in Chilamate Canton, Jucuapa Jurisdiction, Usulutan Department. The clash lasted 15 minutes, after which the enemy fled.

That same day, at 1500, another group of enemy soldiers was attacked in Llano Grande Canton, Jucuapa Jurisdiction. An enemy soldier was seriously wounded. The report adds that a helicopter was sent to evacuate the wounded and that our antiaircraft units located the aircraft and fired on it. Our revolutionary antiaircraft weapons hit their target and the helicopter was damaged. We repeat: A U.S.-made UH-1H helicopter was damaged in the Jucuapa area. This is the second helicopter damaged by our forces in Usulutan and San Miguel.

Rebels Report Attacks in San Salvador

PA0304155189 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Urban commandos continue to operate in San Salvador. Recently they penetrated the security perimeter of the 1st Infantry Brigade and Special Battalions, which have left the (Los Carrales) area and pulled the High Command's defense lines back to the capital itself.

The urban commandos have sent Radio Venceremos a report on their latest activities.

At 1900 on 30 March, urban commando units attacked a power plant on 29th Poniente Street, San Miguelito neighborhood. It is worth pointing out that this action took place behind the enemy's defense lines and despite frequent enemy patrols. Our urban commandos also penetrated these defense lines on 19 March.

At 1915, another FMLN urban commando unit sabotaged a light pole and three transformers. This took place at 25th Street and 6th North Avenue. The area was left without electricity. Still on 30 March, a combined urban commando-militia-guerrilla unit attacked Treasury Police units guarding the Unicentro Commercial Center in Soyapango at 2000. The rebel unit used rifles and explosives. So far there is no report on casualties. Some of the center's stores were damaged. At 2015, another urban commando unit threw explosives at the storage area of the Esso gasoline station on Ejercito Boulevard, across from the Morazan cigarette factory.

At 0500 on 31 March, an urban commando unit attacked the Soyapango Civil Defense Command with explosives, hitting the rear of the building. Because of the nature of the attack, our units could not determine how many casualties the enemy suffered.

These actions against paramilitary forces in Soyapango are our commandos' response to the latest indiscriminate, forced recruitment campaign that those forces have been carrying out in San Salvador.

Revolutionary greetings to all the urban commandos, militiamen, and clandestine guerrilla units that participated in these actions in San Salvador.

FMLN Reports 'Intensive' Actions in March

PA0404010789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] carried out intensive military actions during March and obtained overwhelming political results.

One of March's highlights was our urban actions, which involved our various squads, guerrilla columns, clandestine suburban militias and guerrillas, and commando units. These actions led to a strategic imbalance among the Army's forces. The Army was thus forced to remove its special battalions from the war fronts and engage its air units in urban warfare.

Another important military development in March involved simultaneous nationwide combat actions, such as the action of 19 March, in which the level of antiaircraft combat [words indistinct] the enemy sources. The people's mass participation in sabotage actions led to the successful execution of a planned attack on the nation's electrical system. These actions, together with the highly effective transportation stoppage, reiterate that there is resounding opposition to the counterinsurgency strategy, which makes the reactivation of the war economy impossible.

The participation of new insurgency contingents, militias, and detachments in combat actions was also notable in March. These new groups have emerged in urban areas in which there have been recent revolutionary

expansion. In March, the FMLN maintained regional maneuvers [words indistinct] constant ambushes on the highway, and the increase of antiaircraft tactics.

As of this time, we have confirmed that the Army sustained 670 casualties during March. Those 670 casualties included 11 officers, 4 of whom were Air Force pilots, and 2 noncommissioned officers.

In March, we also carried out 22 ambushes on military vehicles throughout El Salvador. Two helicopters were destroyed in March and nine were damaged, while six military vehicles and one armored vehicle were destroyed. We repeat: In March, two helicopters were destroyed, nine helicopters were damaged, and six military vehicles and one armored vehicle were destroyed.

In addition, we seized 25 combat weapons from the Army in March, including machineguns, grenade launchers, and rocket launchers [words indistinct]. We also seized 2 PRC-77 radios and other war materiel from the military.

Regarding electrical sabotage actions, 364 power structures were affected, including towers, poles, and transformers. We also sabotaged an Electric Light Company of El Salvador power plant in San Ramon, San Salvador.

As further sabotage to the war economy in March, our units sabotaged 1 sugar mill, 2 coffee mills, 1 railroad bridge, 1 Salvadoran National Railroads train, 4 National Administration for Telecommunications offices, 2 city halls, and 25 government vehicles that did not heed the transport stoppage.

Rebels Claim 96 Army Casualties 27 Mar-1 Apr

PA0404010989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front units inflicted a total of 96 Army casualties this week, including dead and wounded, in various clashes throughout the country. The 96 casualties include two officers, 1 of whom is an Air Force pilot.

We carried out 6 ambushes this week, which resulted in 46 Army casualties.

Among the military hardware destroyed or damaged, we include a UH-1H helicopter, which was first damaged in Arenales Canton. Subsequently, the helicopter fell near Jucuapa, where it was completely destroyed.

In addition, we damaged another helicopter and destroyed two military trucks.

Guatemala

New Party Criticizes Christian Democratic Party

PA0304214089 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 31 Mar 89 p 3

[Summary] Enrique Franco Lopez, secretary general of the National Front for Change [Frente Nacional de Cambio—FNC; a party in formation], says it is no secret that the ruling Guatemalan Christian Democratic Party is steadily declining in popularity. He accused the party of corruption, nepotism, lack of leadership, and deep betrayal of the popular masses. He said the Guatemalan people still have time to elect a party that will lead to changes that will benefit the masses; otherwise, he added, the political - social crisis will worsen, and violence will loom.

Army Spokesman Denies Report of URNG Clashes

PA0404014489 Guatemala City LA HORA in Spanish 28 Mar 89 p 6

[Text] Official Army spokesman Colonel Luis Arturo Isaacs Rodriguez today denied a CERIGUA report that the Armed Forces had sustained 64 casualties during the last 3 weeks.

The CERIGUA report, aired this morning by an important local radio station, says that 25 soldiers were killed in just one clash in Santa Barbara township, Suchitepequez Department. Isaacs Rodriguez denied the report, claiming that "a military action of that size could not go unnoticed."

"The last contact with the subversives took place on 12 March in Tercer Pueblo, Playa Grande, Quiche Department, when a military patrol from the 22d Military Zone set off a Claymore mine—killing Sublieutenant Mario Roberto Rodas Lucero and Corporal Adan Lopez Cristales and wounding three soldiers," Rodriguez added.

It has been reported that the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] claimed to have inflicted 25 casualties on the Armed Forces in this incident; this is not true.

In addition, Isaacs Rodriguez said: "The subversives often lie and distort the truth. They recently reported the killing of [Lionel] Sisniega Otero's son and other similar actions, which were later proven false."

"Last year, subversive criminals reported that they downed 50 helicopters. For this to be true, Guatemala would have to have a sizable Air Force."

Finally, Col Isaacs Rodriguez said that the high number of casualties the subversives claim to inflict are just "rumors" spread in order to provoke certain reactions, but Guatemalans no longer believe these rumors. The sort of actions the subversives claim to carry out would not go unnoticed and this is why people no longer believe them, Isaacs concluded.

New Social Security Minister Sworn In

PA0404025789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1640 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Official sources announced today that Labor and Social Security Minister Rodolfo Maldonado has been appointed ambassador to Spain.

Maldonado, a Christian Democrat deputy, will be replacing Ambassador Carlos Armando Soto, who after more than a year in Spain will return to Guatemala to take his seat in the Guatemalan Assembly.

The sources also said that Carlos Padilla Natareno was sworn in today as the new labor and social security minister.

Nicaragua

Editorial on Opposition Reaction to Contra Aid

PA0104035089 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 Mar 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Contra Aid: A Boomerang for the Opposition"]

[Text] The U.S. President's request for $45 million to maintain the contras for another year in Honduras has drawn conflicting reactions from among the opposition parties, some in defense of the Salvadoran agreement and others in defense of Bush's decision.

This initial reaction does not bode well for the opposition and could generate more division, even among groups that claim unity. At the same time, it reveals the negative nature of the U.S. decision because, by insisting on continuing to support the contras, the United States has further weakened the political parties.

The Baker plan's "carrot-and-stick" approach has as its central premise the survival of the contras. Under the weight of the logic of this premise, the development of a unique, revised policy by the opposition toward the electorate remains relegated to second place, and the opposition plays a subservient role in the Yankee policy toward the contras. Bush's announcement is also an affront to the roles other conciliatory organizations play, such as the church, whose silence over the imminent violation of the agreements casts doubt on its own legitimacy.

Maintaining the contras further aggravates the opposition, because decreased Yankee political backing reduces the parties' maneuverability and political autonomy. It is assumed that, given these prospects, the parties will have to compete fiercely among themselves to obtain U.S. support in their election struggle, for which they may receive guarantees for everything, except the popular vote. The elections can become progressively more uncertain if the Salvadoran agreements unravel over the failure to demobilize the contras.

Before claiming victory, the Bush administration and the U.S. Congress should remember the possible "boomerang" effect that the announced decision to continue supporting the contras could have, because the contras, without being a viable option against the Sandinists, could eliminate the parties from the game. This would be doubly disastrous for Mr Bush's recently inaugurated "new policy."

If the parties support maintaining the contras, they will be acting against their own best interests, because they would necessarily be disregarding the Costa del Sol agreement and, with it, the possibility of making demands from or negotiating with the government.

The initial reaction of some opposition leaders who have defended the agreements and who regard the U.S. decision as flying in the face of those agreements indicates the existence of a certain amount of clear thinking among some politicians regarding the dangers posed to their existence by the Bush announcement. However, those who support it are making evident not only their traditional blindness and submission, but the pathetic candor of one who tries to place "pressure on the Sandinists" and comes out on the short end of the stick instead.

Contras Ask To Inspect Sandinist Prisons

PA0304145289 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1822 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Managua, 2 Apr (REUTER)—Contra military commander Enrique Bermudez today said the Nicaraguan rebels will allow the inspection of their camps in Honduras only if the Sandinist government, in turn, allows all of its prisons to be inspected.

The rebel leader said: "If they intend to visit our camps to search for people they say have disappeared, we intend to visit all the Sandinist prisons in Nicaragua to look for our followers who have disappeared."

Speaking on the rebels' radio station, which is heard here in Managua, Bermudez commented on the Sandinists' desire to inspect contra camps, searching for Nicaraguans who allegedly were forcefully recruited by the rebels to fight against the Managua government.

A Nicaraguan multilateral commission traveled to Honduras last week to arrange such a visit, but the rebels did not authorize the inspection. There are currently about 12,000 anti-Sandinist fighters settled in Honduras. They have been inactive since the U.S. Congress suspended military aid to the contras more than 1 year ago. Last month, however, the U.S. Congress reached a bipartisan agreement to extend humanitarian aid to the contras until February, while waiting to see whether Nicaragua will keep its promises of democratization. Bermudez said contra military aid could be renewed if the Sandinists did not keep their promises.

Bermudez, speaking on the rebel radio, said: "We are prepared to wait in our camps for the Sandinists to honor their promises, but we are willing to resume the armed struggle if they do not keep their word."

"U.S. Secretary of State Jim Baker said they (the United States) have other options. One of these options is to give us military aid," Bermudez added. "Therefore, military aid has not been ruled out."

He also insisted that the contras should be part of a political solution to the Nicaraguan conflict. "I think we are an important part of this issue and cannot be ignored," Bermudez stressed. "We must be included in any dialogue on Nicaragua's future," he added. Bermudez reiterated the rebels' demand for a three-way dialogue between the Sandinists, the political opposition, and the armed opposition.

Station Employees Take Over Radio Paz

PA0304183789 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Telephone interview with Victor Cedeno, secretary general of the Trade Union Organization of Communication Media Workers from the "Radio Paz" studios in Managua by Ernesto Ugarte—live]

[Text] [Ugarte] Victor, we have heard that Radio Paz has been taken over. Could you provide the listeners of the "The Awakening" newscast with details?

[Cedeno] That is correct. Three of us, representing all of the workers in our organization, took over the station this morning at 0530.

For some time now, we have been experiencing problems with the central management. When our comrades Norma Guadamuz and Mayra Santos Romero resigned as the station's director and assistant director, we sent a letter to Comrade [Arnulfo] Urrutia [director of the People's Radio Broadcasting Corporation—CORADEP] on 14 March, asking him to discuss the appointment of new radio directors with us. We wanted to participate in deciding who would replace our comrades. After holding a meeting with our trade union members, we decided not to accept our two comrades' resignations. Meanwhile, Mr Urrutia in no way responded to our letter, even though he had until 31 March to do so. We, therefore, held a meeting on Saturday and decided to exert some pressure by taking over the radio station.

We will not allow any CORADEP official to enter these facilities. They have had too much time to respond to our letter and to treat us properly. We feel our union has received no response or consideration whatsoever from a supposedly revolutionary directorate, which has not even responded to our 14 March letter.

This is why we decided to take over the radio today. We have taken over the Radio Paz installations as of 0530 this morning.

[Ugarte] Victor, will this situation continue until the CORADEP general directorate gives you an answer? Also, will Radio Paz continue its regular programming?

[Cedeno] Yes. At no time have we interrupted operations. This is not a strike. We are just taking over the facilities. That is all. The station will continue its regular programming. We are experiencing no broadcasting difficulties. We will remain on the air.

We wanted to point out to the public that our union fully supports comrades Norma Guadamuz and Mayra Santos. On behalf of the Radio Paz trade union, we want to tell them that they are still our directors. We, the workers, will not accept their resignations, regardless of whether the directorate has accepted their resignations or not.

We want to make the following very clear: as of December, we have been financially self-sufficient. We as a union should have also been notified of their resignations to see whether we accepted them or not. We clearly state that we have not yet accepted our two comrades' resignations. We thus cannot accept any new directors. Why should we be assigned new directors, when we already have directors?

Further on Takeover

PA0304202189 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1824 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Report by Ernesto Ugarte Salmeron]

[Text] A few moments ago, we went to the Radio Paz studios to see what the situation was. Just as some of the media reported this morning, the Sandinist police visited the premises to inquire as to why some workers had taken over the station. Victor Cedeno, secretary general of the Trade Union Organization of Communication Media Workers, told the Sandinist police that the takeover was due to a labor dispute and was not politically motivated. Victor also said that in a few minutes they will be meeting with the People's Radio Broadcasting Corporation [CORADEP] Director Arnulfo Urrutia to see if the problem can be resolved.

The workers are demanding that Station Director Norma Guadamuz and Deputy Director Mayra Santos be rehired immediately. Both resigned from their positions, although it is not known why. Unofficially, it is believed they resigned for political reasons. We also learned that Karen Martinez has been appointed the new director of Radio Paz. She had previously been an announcer at La Voz de Nicaragua.

At the end of December, CORADEP told certain radio stations that they could no longer continue to finance them. These stations, therefore, became self-sufficient. One of these is Radio Paz, which has been paying for the broadcasts, technical equipment, and the employee payroll.

At midday today, a meeting will be held between Radio Paz's Trade Union of Communication Media Workers employees and CORADEP officials.

Honduran Army Reportedly Attacks Border Area

PA0304204989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2029 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] The Nicaraguan Defense Ministry has reported a new attack by the Honduran Army in the border area of La Piedra, Nueva Segovia. Since January, there have been 41 acts of provocation by the Honduran Army.

Cooperation Protocol Signed With CSSR

PA0304171289 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Mar 89 p 5

[Text] Ladislav Vodrazka, first deputy minister of the CSSR Foreign Trade Ministry, and Javier Bone, Nicaraguan foreign cooperation vice minister, have signed a new $15 million intergovernment credit for the purchase of 60,000 metric tons of petroleum, raw materials, spare parts, and equipment for industry, agriculture, and transportation.

By signing the cooperation agreement, the two countries agreed to study new forms of economic cooperation that could be implemented through joint enterprises that would promote small projects to generate net flows of foreign currency and to promote important industrial rehabilitation programs in the areas of leather, shoes, textiles, and clothing, among others.

The document states that the CSSR Government will continue to offer free technical assistance to Nicaragua in the areas of hydrology, electrical and mechanical engineering, and economic planning, among others.

After signing the document, Comrade Ladislav Vodrazka expressed his satisfaction with the scientific-technical and economic cooperation agreement between the Republic of Nicaragua and the CSSR.

Vodrazka said: "On behalf of our delegation, I can assure you that we will implement the agreements set forth in this document."

Vice Minister Javier Bone Pantoja, speaking on behalf of Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, the foreign cooperation minister, characterized the cooperation between the Nicaraguan and CSSR Governments since 1980 as very positive.

The signing of this cooperation agreement is a result of the sixth meeting of the Joint Nicaragua-CSSR Intergovernmental Commission, which was held in Managua between 20 and 22 March 1989.

Finland To Give $35 Million in Aid for Imports

PA0404040489 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 Apr 89 p 5

[Text] Finland will give 150 million markkas, approximately $35 million, in aid to create an import fund to help Nicaragua's economic plan for 1989. David Johansson, director general of the Finnish Agency for International Cooperation [Agencia Finlandesa para la Cooperacion Internacional] (FINNIDA), and Vice Foreign Cooperation Minister Giovanni Delgado signed the agreement.

Panama

Solis Palma on Perez' Comments, U.S. Army

PA0404042989 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Minister in Charge of the Presidency Manuel Solis Palma has charged that National Liberation Coalition sympathizers were intercepted yesterday by the U.S. Army when they tried to go to the town of Veracruz, an action that goes against guarantees for a genuine election process.

Solis Palma also referred to recent statements by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez that there are no guarantees for honest elections in Panama. Solis Palma also noted that anyone who is part of the government but works against government structures must be either dismissed or eliminated.

[Begin recording] [Solis Palma] I regret that President Perez said that. It is his personal opinion. However, the opinion that counts is that of the people participating in the elections in Panama; if they are participating, it is because they think suitable conditions exist. Of course, participants will always ask for more. This happens in all election processes. I think we are the ones who will have to demand more guarantees. Yesterday, we were not able to pass through a Panamanian site that is still in the hands of the United States while the opposition was allowed to pass through that same site without problem with all their flags.

[Reporter] Is there any concern over what happened?

[Solis Palma] We condemn that kind of situation, a situation we have been bearing because of our physical inability for confrontation.

[Reporter] The Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance, through Ricardo Arias Calderon, has charged that in your latest speech you sided with one of the two political organizations engaged in the election campaign. What do you have to say to that?

[Solis Palma] My position has always been very clear. It would be good if you ask Reagan why he was so partial to Bush.

[Reporter] Mr President, you said whoever is not with the process should be eliminated. Could you explain that a bit more, because there is some concern over that.

[Solis Palma] If there is concern, it is because some people are always looking for nonexistent strange things. I believe whoever acts against the government from within the government must be dismissed. This is the kind of elimination I am talking about. I am talking about dismissing someone from one's post. I am not talking about eliminating one physically. [end recording]

Ritter Responds to Venezuelan Leader's Comments
PA0104183889 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0247 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Panama City, 31 Mar (DPA)—Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter today disagreed with a statement made in the United States by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Perez said that in his opinion there are not enough guarantees for the elections in Panama. The elections are scheduled for 7 May.

In this regard, Ritter said: "The conditions for the elections are there to be seen, regardless of the personal opinion of major figures or government leaders of other countries."

Ritter said that he did not want to "guess" at Perez' "intentions" in making this statement since he had not seen the text of Perez' remarks. The Panamanian foreign minister noted: "I prefer to believe that his statement is aimed at promoting friendship between the two countries and not at further dividing Panamanian society and much less at meddling in the domestic affairs of my country."

Ritter said that the election campaign is proceeding enthusiastically and without casualties, and he noted that the media is swamped with propaganda from both the government and the opposition parties.

The foreign minister made these remarks at a National Liberation Coalition [COLINA] rally on busy Argentina Avenue, an area often characterized as an opposition bastion. Thousands of COLINA supporters participated in the rally. The president of COLINA is Carlos Duque Jaen.

Editorial Scores Venezuelan President
PA0404040289 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 2 Apr 89 pp 1a, 4a

[Editorial: "A Redeemer With a Glass House"]

[Text] We all know our grandmothers' old and wise saying: "People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones." Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, exhibiting a pretentious attitude that is being sickeningly echoed by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Enrique Tejera—an old man who graduated from U.S. obedience school—is stubbornly insisting upon acting as a spokesman for our country and on sowing doubts about Panamanian elections.

It should be pointed out that Panama's electoral code is more democratic than Venezuela's, where only a few people who appear on some lists have the opportunity to be elected senator or deputy.

Panama is a pluralistic country par excellence. It has not been the victim of a bipartisan system whose sad results after 30 years of use in Venezuela are wealthy presidents and increased poverty.

In Panama we have had violence sparked by Washington's corrupt money. However, the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] have never committed any massacres such as the loathsome massacre that took place in Venezuela, where the government keeps the death toll secret, but the people know that more than 1,000 people died.

The testimony by the Movement to Socialism (MAS) to a congressional committee has caused much concern. Many people who were arrested in poor neighborhoods were killed, others were tortured, and young people were beaten to make them inform on others who participated in truly spontaneous and popular demonstrations.

In the 1960's, when Romulo Betancourt was president of Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez, the human rights champion, beheaded the rebel movement, making it clear to the United States that he has no scruples.

His entire life is marked by his poorly disguised acceptance of orders from whoever is in the White House, be it James Carter or George Bush.

The crowning of Carlos Andres II, as the Spanish media has described his inauguration, is part of the strategy of softening the storm and defusing the time bomb that is suffocating Caracas: horrible poverty, drugs, crime, unemployment, and prostitution.

Considering that Venezuela had the largest income of any Latin American country from 1973 to 1983 and that it has ended up as one of the nations with the largest debt, one does not have to look too hard to notice the process of corruption begun by Perez; a process that eliminated Venezuelans' opportunities for development.

Venezuelan Interior Minister Alejandro Izaguirre, a member of the elderly generation accompanying Perez in his second presidential adventure, has explained the situation: "In 30 years of democracy, we have not found any solutions to the people's problems."

In Panama, we have changed the country, in less time, to the point where it has been able to combat the treacherous aggression of the world's foremost power.

At a news conference at the United Nations today, Perez ratified his total dependence on Washington, and repeated the watchwords that the United States has invented to pretend there will be fraudulent elections in Panama.

This new version of Perez, the meddling apostle of nations that he tries to control as if they were docile herds so their poverty and forsaken condition will not hurt President Bush, has very few of Bolivar's ideals.

In reading his statements—which are published with pleasure by all the news agencies that subscribe to disinformation—what comes to mind is the image of another sad president: Jose Azcona Hoyo, who is always available to satisfy whatever need imperial emissaries may have.

Our country's electoral code guarantees the casting of votes, the counting of votes with the participation of all the political groups participating in the elections, and the right of candidates to challenge the results.

We are too pained and frustrated and have too much to mourn as a result of Ronald Reagan's policies to now accept having Perez—an archetypal product of cheap and opportunistic democracies who has just received a country in crisis from a fellow partyman of his, Jaime Lusinchi, who engaged in all sort of venal activities in spite of the crisis—dream that just because he has the backing of his masters he has the right to speak for Latin America.

In the 1970's, Perez climbed on the bandwagon of Torrijist popularity to obtain prestige. Now, older and with no chance of being reelected, he has made the same error that other leaders in this hemisphere have made: depending completely on alms from our exploiters.

COLINA 'Abused' at U.S. Air Force Base

PA0304155389 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Apr 89 p A-1

[Text] Members of the COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] presidential ticket personally suffered yesterday the abuse to which Panamanians living in Veracruz, Arraijan District, constantly suffer when they were stopped upon arrival at the sentry station that the U.S. military has at the entrance of Howard Air Force Base. Several soldiers told Carlos Duque Jaen, Ramon Sieiro, and Aquilino Boyd that they would be allowed to enter the base if they put away their Panamanian flag and the COLINA political party flags and if their followers "behaved" themselves.

This serious incident occurred at approximately 1000 when U.S. soldiers lowered the barricade at the gate and took up combat positions upon instructions form their superiors, totally disregarding the fact that the road leads to Veracruz and that the canal treaties authorize Panamanians to use this road. Mr Carlos Duque vigorously replied that they would "first have to carry away my dead body before I will be forced to put away the Panamanian flag."

Legislator Rigoberto Paredes, in whose electoral circuit they carried out a successful political tour yesterday, also issued a very nationalistic statement in this regard.

A long time passed before nationalism and reason prevailed. The U.S. soldiers realized that the Panamanians would not abandon their firm attitude so, after several telephone consultations, they agreed to let the caravan pass through carrying the Panamanian flag and the political party flags. The soldiers insisted many times that no situation should be created that might disturb "the peace, tranquillity, and Sunday rest of the U.S. soldiers at Howard." They also said that they would not allow any more Panamanian flags, since they had enough with the one they already have on a flag pole at the base.

The COLINA caravan was closely watched by land and air forces along the way. Heavily armed U.S. soldiers guarded several areas, and a helicopter flew over the area through which the caravan passed.

An incident that almost caused a much more critical situation occurred when the U.S. soldiers tried to stop photographers and cameramen from taking pictures of the incident. They even insinuated that the cameras could be confiscated.

Later on, when Carlos Duque arrived in Veracruz, Arraijan, and other places, he stated that "he understood Omar Torrijos much better now. Following the bitter experience of this historic 2 April, Sunday, incident, I understand that we must make whatever sacrifices are necessary so that the last colonialist stake driven into our homeland's soil is removed by the sons of a Panama destined to be totally sovereign throughout its territory."

Duque also recalled that a foreign journalist asked him on Friday if he considered Argentina Avenue a political opposition stronghold, and he added that on that occasion he emphasized that the opposition had no stronghold on free Panamanian soil. Now, after being violently prevented free access to Veracruz through Howard Air Force Base, Carlos Duque emphasized that he understood that the opposition did have some remaining strongholds, but on soil that has not yet been liberated. The opposition's strongholds are none other than the gringos' military bases, which still remain on our territory but that will disappear at noon on 31 December 1999.

The undisciplined Yankee troops—accompanied by an armored car—allowed the caravan to pass on its return from Veracruz but demanded that only 10 vehicles go though at a time, while stressing that no one should make any noise that might mortify the "Marines" and the pilots and other military personnel who were resting on Sunday.

People living in Veracruz, who joined the protests, stated that the gringos did not bother the ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance] caravan, which recently passed through the base with their political guides enroute to Veracruz.

Many of these people said they would respond to any insult to the national flag regardless of their political party, because no true Panamanian would be willing to "put away his flag in his own territory."

Duque's Position Lauded

PA0404032989 Panama City MEDIODIA in Spanish 3 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Dead First...!"]

[Text] The entire country was shocked yesterday by the report that U.S. Army soldiers at Howard Air Force Base, who prevented COLINA [National Liberation Coalition] members heading for the township of Veracruz from entering the base, said they could only allow the COLINA members to enter the area if they hid the Panamanian flags and the COLINA political party flags.

Just like all Panamanian titans who have gone down in history for facing, unflinchingly and with firm determination, the arrogant attitude of the representatives of the government that constantly tries to humiliate us in our own territory, COLINA candidate Carlos Duque Jaen pronounced the challenging words that will be remembered forever in the history of our nationalist struggle: "Dead first. They will have to take me out of here dead first; I am not going to hide my Panamanian flag...!"

The incident is one more example of the barefaced biasness shown by the U.S. Army in the Panamanian political campaign. It must serve to draw attention to our national civic awareness, so Panamanians will understand that the final battle to recover total sovereignty of our national territory is just beginning. We cannot and must not let our guard down at any time.

And let it be known once and for all what side the nationalists who are ready to go to any length to defend our rights are on, and what side those who obscenely lend themselves to suit the will of a foreign power to control our future are on.

The spirit of the nineties is the spirit of the Panamanian words of Carlos A. Duque Jaen. They must be our guide, our inspiration, our motto: "Dead first...!" We would rather die first than allow ourselves to be humiliated in our own fatherland...!

COLINA's Duque on U.S. Military 'Statements'

PA3103193889 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 89

[Message from National Liberation Coalition presidential candidate Carlos Duque to "Panamanians and all countries of the world"; read by Aquilino Boyd, second vice presidential candidate; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] On behalf of the National Liberation Coalition [COLINA] candidates, we wish to comment on Panama's problem and the U.S. military. Judging from the latest statements by the head of the so-called Southern Command, it would seem that the U.S. military is beginning to understand that Panama's problems should begin to be resolved in an atmosphere of understanding and that the United States must be ready to implement a long-range plan to repair the enormous damage done to the Panamanian economy by the unjust U.S. aggression. The confidence that the Torrijos-Carter treaties will be fully respected and not unilaterally interpreted must be restored.

The U.S. military has realized that the U.S. Government made a mistake in supporting a slanderous campaign against an ally that in two world wars was not disloyal, mean, or treacherous. The United States, in acting hastily, imprudently, confusedly, and foolishly, appears to the world to be supporting ambitious, seditious forces who have no moral constraints and who are looking out for only their own personal interests.

At a U.S. House of Representatives defense subcommittee hearing, Southern Command Chief General Fred Woerner recalled that in February General Noriega emerged unscathed from all coup attempts and the intense campaigns by former President Eric Arturo Delvalle—leader of surrender and submission.

The time has come for the United States to reexamine its Panama policy. Noriega's invulnerability proves that the information spread by the U.S. media has been lies, that the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] under Gen Noriega is monolithic, and that the Panamanian people have not been cowered or scared by the blackmail, insults, and abuse. The military was the first to realize that injustice strengthens the civic spirit of those who are abused and that U.S. greatness is diminished when it uses its economic power to violate, oppress, and tyrannize friends that refuse to act like slaves or robots. The military personnel are aware of the peoples' needs because they are the pillars of majesty and national pride. The honor and dignity of the homeland is defended, protected, and sheltered by them. A nation in the hands of unscrupulous and greedy politicians is bound to be undermined.

Fortunately for our country, the defenders of dignity in the United States know that Panama has been and is the victim of actions by bad Panamanians who disinform and by disinformed U.S. politicians. The Panama Canal

is operating efficiently and is well defended to a great extent thanks to the professionalism of the FDP, which has been able to withstand all kinds of threats and intimidations.

In Panama, there is peace and the citizens have confidence in the upcoming May elections. The anxiety of some canal employees caused by their not being able to obtain license plates for their vehicles is the result of absurd violations of the Torrijos-Carter treaties by the United States, which apart from of the unjust sanctions have meddled in Panama's internal affairs. Despite U.S. attempts to introduce politics into internal canal affairs, the Panamanian Government has taught the United States lessons in good judgment in terms of how basic principles of international laws and rules should be complied with.

The best thing both sides can do is to wait calmly and patiently for the results of the May elections, knowing that the new president, Carlos Duque, after winning the elections as a result of receiving a majority of the peoples' votes, will make renewed calls for national unity to continue demanding from the United States faithful compliance with the letter and spirit of the Torrijos-Carter treaties as the best way to ensure that the canal remains open and offers uninterrupted passage to world shipping.

This is the message COLINA sends to Panamanians and all countries of the world on behalf of candidate Carlos Duque. Thank you.

U.S. Army Receives Caskets, Body Bags

PA0304220789 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 3 Apr 89 pp 1, 18

[Text] The U.S. Army based in the canal area continues to prepare for a possible armed attack against the defenseless Panamanian people. To prepare for this attack, the U.S. Army has received great quantities of caskets and body bags.

CRITICA has received reports from sources connected to the U.S. troops and the Southern Command of the recent arrival at Pier 18 of the vessel "Senator," operated by CCT [Coordinated Caribbean Transport], with a gloomy shipment of 130 aluminum caskets.

A similar shipment was observed once before. That shipment included body bags, like those used for shipping thousands of gringos who died in the Vietnam war, which cost the U.S. people their best youth.

These caskets were transported to Panama from the United States by the Boyd Brothers Steamship Agency, located opposite Pier 18, behind the tourist taxi stand in the area reverted to Panama.

The macabre load of caskets was transported in cartons to Building 701, Corozal, where they were stored to be used in case the planned attack on Panama City takes place.

Solis on 13th-Month Bonus, Promissory Notes

PA0304205889 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1429 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, Panamanian minister in charge of the Presidency, at the comptroller general's office in Panama City—live]

[Text] Mrs Marisol Reyes de Vasquez, president of the Supreme Court of Justice; Messrs Comptroller General and Assistant Comptroller General of the Republic; Messrs Ministers of State; Mr Mario de Diego, executive secretary of the Banking Commission; Mr Rafael Arosemena, director general of the National Bank; Mr Marcos Moscoso, president of the Coordinating Board of State Government Unions; my friend Samudio [not further identified], representative of the FENASEP [National Federation of Associations of Public Employees]; special guests; members of the national and foreign news media; employees of the comptroller general's office; ladies and gentlemen.

I am really pleased to attend this ceremony to draw the first promissory notes that we will redeem on 7 April, because this event represents the responsibility, seriousness, and courage with which we have faced the crisis that has been forced on us by internal and external powers that are the enemies of the republic.

When the situation that you all know about arose, and we assumed the Executive Branch responsibilities on 26 February 1988, the fiscal revenues situation—economic pressure applied against the government with the clear and explicit intention of ousting and replacing it with people who are friends of the United States—the estimated revenues for March—approximately $113 million or $114 million—dropped to $37 million. Throughout the following months, our revenues did not even cover our payroll.

Nevertheless, we began to look for solutions. We began to work hard to find solutions, and, following lengthy and open discussions with all the organized sectors of the country... [changes thought] It is appropriate to mention that on 26 February 1988 the decisionmaking style changed radically. A state council, a cabinet council, has not been convened without the participation of representatives from all the organized sectors of our country. We sought to reach joint solutions.

It is customary for the directors of all the autonomous state enterprises to attend these meetings, as well as representatives of all unions, news media, and other sectors of the Panamanian community. In discussions with all these sectors, we considered many ideas for overcoming the crisis, including the issuance of paper money, minting of coins, and many other measures that were honestly and sincerely reviewed. We were considering measures that would not harm the national economy while trying to prevent inflation and a devaluation [as heard].

At one time, the comptroller general of the republic proposed that salaries be broken down into small checks. It was not easy to agree to this measure. There were many opinions on this. Yet the salaries were broken down into small checks, and we began to pay with these checks. The first checks were rejected by the business sector. The supermarkets did not want to cash them, and others cashed them for 50 percent and 30 percent of their face value. Thus, speculation with these checks began.

However, we began to look for ways to enhance the value of these checks, to cash them at a certain time, and the stores began to announce: We cash the checks here.

The number of stores cashing the checks increased day by day. The bank interest declined [as heard] and the profiteering that had initially ensued from this situation waned and was eliminated.

Nowadays, these checks are worth much more than they were, and we are protecting their value. Very often, we pay people their salaries 2, 3, or 4 days after pay day, not 10 or 15 days. At this point, it is worth mentioning that very often, what is caused by inertia later becomes acquired rights in our country.

When the comptroller general and the government, meaning the government machinery and equipment, were not able to pay all the government employees in 1 day, it was decided to pay at regular intervals. When the banks were not able to pay, because they did not have enough branches and representatives in all the communities, it was decided to pay at regular intervals. We said: Some employees will be paid between the 10th and 12th of the month; others on the 13th, some on the 14th, and some on the 15th. Then the employees began to say that they had the right to get paid in advance. Such is the case of the teachers and professors, who have become—at least a large number of them—enemies of the Republic after being its defenders.

They began to talk about acquired rights. No one has acquired the right to be paid in advance. Payday is on the 15th and 31st—or 30th—day of each month, not the 10th or the 12th. That was necessary at the time, but later, when the comptroller was capable of printing all the government employees' checks in a few hours, the old system stayed in place because inertia always takes us along the old roads even though things have changed.

Now some employees say: I was paid on the 12th, and now I am paid on the 17th. This means there was a 5-day delay. No! He was paid with a 2-day and not a 5-day delay. It is appropriate to mention that these 2-day or 3-day delays protect the value of the checks. If we issue the checks without having the necessary backstop at the bank, we discredit the check. We would then return to the problem of the checks cashed at a discount, checks without funds, lack of credit, and this would be detrimental for the public employees.

It is better to delay the payday 2, 3, even 4 days, and thus protect this instrument that represents a cash payment, meaning the check. We will continue to protect the value of the checks. The check is now an instrument, an openly and broadly circulating coin.

For this same reason, that is, because we continue the search for solutions—despite the crisis—we decided to pay the first part of the 13th month bonus in May and June, even though we had no possibility of doing so, because the revenues were not sufficient to cover the payroll. We did not begin to dismiss workers en masse or in small numbers. We did not cut their salaries. We gave them hours off, days off, so that they would not have transportation expenses, and we never cut their salaries.

However, the private sector—which claims that a political change is necessary to reactivate the country—and the businessmen availed themselves of the crisis to dismiss workers and cut the workers' salaries. The businesses have improved but the dismissals and salary cuts continue. They are the ones who claim that they will defend the republic. [applause]

The government has maintained and continues to maintain—not because it is irresponsible but because it is socially responsible and believes in the need to develop the country without sacrificing the poor sectors; because it does not believe that the country's development depends on an accumulation of riches in the hands of a few but the distribution of those riches among all—the large payroll that could not be paid in the beginning and that it had to pay by sacrificing some essential public services.

The situation improved, but we were unable to pay the second part of the 13th-month bonus. You may have asked yourselves: But if the situation is improving, how is it that the first part of the bonus could be paid under worse conditions, yet the second part cannot be paid when conditions have improved? The answer is very simple: We had stopped funding certain essential public services, but this could not continue. We could not stop supplying the Social Security hospitals with medicine; we could not stop funding the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification]; we could not stop maintaining IRHE's installations to avoid blackouts or a loss of power throughout the country; we could not stop sending food to the hospitals or to the inmates at our jails. We could no longer continue to hold on to loan installments withheld from public employees' salaries; we had to pay the businesses who were owed that money. We had to begin offering certain services and paying certain leases.

Although revenues increased, cash flow was low because we had to pay certain services; as a result, payment of the second part of the 13th-month bonus was becoming increasingly difficult. Nevertheless, with the understanding expressed by leaders of FENASEP and the Coordinating Board of State Agencies' Unions, and thanks to

their political savvy, love for the fatherland, and unyielding determination not to be used, we reached an agreement. The entire aggression has been planned to produce discontent in the community, especially among public employees, to make them rise up against the government, take power, and turn it over to the United States. This has been the key goal of the aggression.

However, since the workers understood us, we reached an agreement. It was then that, making an immense effort, we decided to pay 50 percent of the second part of the 13th-month bonus in cash and 25 percent in checks valid only for the payment of public services, leaving 25 percent of the second part unpaid.

Then it was time to pay the third part of the 13th month bonus, and our situation worsened; despite increased revenues, we were still way below normal conditions because 20 to 25 millon balboas monthly are being withheld. These funds belong to Panama, but they are deposited in U.S. banks and are available to the fatherland's traitors. This is the situation we are experiencing. [applause]

We need those 20 to 25 million balboas monthly to pay certain services and to meet community demands. The United States has tried to take us to the extreme of not being able to meet the community's basic needs as a means of discrediting us. The people must be informed of this. It is a plan that is being implemented. Once again, we found even greater understanding in Mauro Murillo [secretary general of Union of Workers of National Institute of Telecommunications] and his people and in Hector Aleman [FENASEP secretary general] and his people. We began discussing the various ways in which we could pay the pending portion of the second part of the 13th-month bonus and the third part of the bonus, which is much larger than the two previous parts because of certain legal requirements.

It was under these conditions that we proposed the promissory notes. We discussed ways to implement them, and the job was turned over to the comptroller general. The comptroller general is not responsible for creating the promissory notes; he is responsible for implementing the system. I am not the promissory notes' father either, but as their stepfather, I claim full responsibility for them. [applause]

We had some initial problems with the promissory notes, just as we did with the checks. One store began accepting promissory notes. That one store may have taken advantage of the situation by increasing the prices of its merchandise, among other things—but it took the first step. Other stores soon followed suit, and now there are signs everywhere saying: We accept promissory notes here. The interest on these notes is still high, but it will soon begin to drop.

Why did we change our original plan? Why did we begin with the original plan? Because we had no way of knowing in December what the income would be for the central government and for decentralized organizations in January, February, and March 1989. We had to wait to see how the situation evolved before deciding on a much more realistic plan. When we devised our plan in December, we were forced to adopt a pessimistic attitude regarding income. We have based today's drawing—the first drawing—on this plan. We have also based the second drawing, which will take place in 6 months, and all other drawings until we finish paying off the promissory notes in 1991, on this plan.

Because January, February, and March income was better than we had anticipated, we have decided to totally revise our plan for redeeming the promissory notes. We are now saying we can redeem these promissory notes in 1989. If we later find out we will be able to redeem these notes sooner in the year, we will do so. Our basic interest is to fulfill our pledge to the public employees. We want to help them as much as we can so they will suffer as few hardships as possible. We have always believed this, which is why we have made this change. If conditions improve, we will redeem more notes. If the United States returns our money, we will redeem these notes the following day. We are not going to withhold money from public employees or anyone else if we have the resources to pay. We are not the United States, which withholds money belonging to others. [applause]

I want to congratulate the comptroller general and his team and the finance minister for achieving higher revenues than we expected. [applause] Many criticized the measures taken, but they have yielded the expected results. If any measure does not yield results, we will correct it. We will go forward. No one can stop us. We and our people are determined to go forward.

Today, with this first drawing to redeem 3 million balboas in promissory notes, with great profit for those receiving high-interest discounts, I am pleased to act on the deepest feelings I have had in my life. I want to thank the public employees who have waited patiently and have trusted us. The only thing I can say to those employees who did not trust us is they spoke too soon. They will now have to retract what they said. This government, which I am honored to preside over, will always cater to our nation's greatest causes, regardless of class. We are equipped with the necessary manpower and with a people able to understand. I hope you do not make the mistake of changing your course. I hope you will not try changing horses in midstream, because you will only be harming the nation. Thank you.

Attorney General Reports Cooperation With DEA

PA0304030889 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 2 Apr 89 pp 1a, 8a

[Text] Attorney General Carlos Villalaz; Lieutenant Colonel Nivaldo Madrinan Aponte, director of the National Department of Investigation [DENI]; and Captain Luis Quiel, head of the International Liaison Office of Panama's Special Antinarcotics Forces, have

informed the national and international press about the arrest of five individuals who are under investigation and charged with the crimes of concealment and money laundering.

Attorney General Villalaz said he summoned the press to report that on 30 and 31 March, the Special Antinarcotics Forces of Panama and the Attorney General's Office were involved in an operation pertaining to drugs and money laundering that affected our country; therefore, he added, "we had to stop this crime."

Villalaz said that William Guarin Pulencio and Clara Garcia de Paredes, officers at Banco de Occidente, located in the Lizak Building at the corner of 50th and Aquilino de la Guardia Streets, Alonso Correa Acevedo, and pilots German Flores and William Rueda Perez were arrested.

The last three are under investigation because they accompanied a man called Eduardo Martinez, who is eagerly being sought by the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], undercover agents, and DEA authorities but has not yet been captured.

Villalaz added that "for humanitarian reasons, Panama continues to fight international drug trafficking." He pointed out that our country maintains contacts with any international agency regardless of its country of origin.

Attorney General Villalaz said this operation involved the DEA of the United States.

He said: We will investigate Banco de Occidente through the appropriate channels to determine whether this bank that operates in our country laundered money. However, if the money came from the United States—where drugs are sold and purchased—then banks in that country are accepting the cash.

When the attorney general was asked why the United States is trying overlook that Panama has effectively cooperated in the struggle against drug trafficking, he said: "In principle, Panama believes the struggle against drug trafficking is humanitarian in nature, and no other country should decide whether another participates in the struggle against drug trafficking. [no closing quotation mark as published]

Villalaz added that no government should judge another country's actions. With this operation, we have shown that Panama continues to fight drug trafficking regardless of the opinions of other governments. As in this operation, the U.S. State Department has politicized the drug-trafficking problem.

DENI Director Lt Col Nivaldo Madrinan said his office will continue to search for Eduardo Martinez while the pilots are under investigation. This individual, Madrinan added, is well placed at the top and was involved in money-laundering operations and transferred money to accounts in New York and other U.S. banks.

Lt Col Madrinan added that top DEA authorities, including Mr Long, and the U.S. attorney general, have acknowledged through their statements the high degree of cooperation displayed by local authorities and the FDP in the struggle against drug trafficking.

Argentina

Caputo To 'Put Aside' Falklands Issue for Now

PY0304152289 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1454 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 Apr (NA)—Foreign Minister Dante Caputo at noon today made an emphatic call to "struggle for life," and to put aside the arguments over the way in which Argentine sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands should be recovered.

"Everything must be left as it is. This is a matter that is very dear to the hearts of all Argentines," Caputo stated when questioned by the press after a mass that was held for those who fell during the Malvinas War.

The foreign minister stated that the most important message that he could give coincides with the homily of Priest Ovidio Tripodi during today's mass in which he called for "a respectful remembrance for those who fell for the fatherland."

"Argentines have died for their fatherland and we must respect them by taking into account the significance of the matter," Caputo said.

Finally, the Civic Radical Union's candidate for the Chamber of Deputies said that for the time being he prefers "not to comment or remark" on how an eventual Eduardo Angeloz Government would undertake the Malvinas question in international forums.

Gassino Defends War

PY3103193289 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Today, Army Chief Francisco Gassino categorically defended the heroic deeds of 2 April 1982 when Argentine military forces temporarily recovered control over the Malvinas Islands. He said: our sacrifice was not in vain. It will be written in the chronicles of Argentine history.

Gassino delivered a speech this morning to a troop formation outside the Libertador Building, the seat of the Army headquarters. This ceremony was held to commemorate the 7th anniversary of the military occupation of the Malvinas Islands, which is celebrated on 2 April, and also to pay tribute to those who died in the war against Great Britain.

His speech was simultaneously read in all military garrisons throughout the country. Gassino said that the 74-day war, in which almost a million [figure as heard] people died, clearly reflected the true meaning of the word sovereignty beyond legal, ideological, or political interpretations, because its objective was to restore to Argentina this group of South Atlantic islands, which are in the hearts of all Argentines.

Gassino said this was the most important war that the Argentine military forces have waged during this century. He added that as future generations view our actions, they will understand that our sacrifice was not in vain. Gassino stated: The courageous effort that was made will be written in the chronicles of Argentine history. It will be proof of the irrevocable ideal of a generation which struggled to defend the dignity of the nation.

Change in Economic Minister Discussed

UCR on Sourrouille Replacement

PY3103212289 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 31 Mar 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Rafaela, Sante Fe (NA)—In another conspicuous attempt to distance himself from the current administration, Radical Civic Union (UCR) President Candidate Eduardo Angeloz has said that "this could be the occasion" to replace Minister Juan Sourrouille and his economic team. Angeloz, however, made it clear that "this is not my decision, it must be made by President Raul Alfonsin."

Angeloz said that the economic team led by Juan Vital Sourrouille has demonstrated that "it cannot control the exchange rate," adding that the "dollar rate is unrealistic."

Angeloz made these remarks during a news conference at the beginning of another leg of his campaign through the interior of the country. [passage omitted]

Reasons for Resignation

PY3103212689 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2055 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (TELAM)—Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez today confirmed that outgoing Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille tendered his "irrevocable" resignation "in the face of the political situation created by Radical presidential candidate Eduardo Angeloz's remarks on the economic policy."

Speaking to newsmen at the entrance of the Olivos residence, Lopez said that Economy Minister-designate Juan Carlos Pugliese may be sworn in on Monday because "this is what President Alfonsin wants."

Commenting on the situation of the other members of the economic team, Lopez said: "They will make their own decisions, which they will convey to Mr Pugliese." He noted, however, that these economic officials "will probably follow Sourrouille's decision by tendering their resignation."

Party Leaders React

PY0104025589 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0022 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 31 Mar (DYN)—Carlos Menem and Alvaro Alsogaray, the main opposition presidential candidates, had mixed responses today to Economy Minister Juan Vital Sourrouille's resignation. Representatives of various parties, except the UCR [Radical Civic Union], agreed that Sourrouille resigned "too late."

Five hours after Sourrouille's resignation was confirmed, only the UCR Committee of the Federal Capital came forward to express hopes that the new economic team can work to "benefit" Argentina.

In turn, government officials admitted that Sourrouille's resignation was prompted by recent statements by UCR presidential candidate Eduardo Angeloz that the economic team should be replaced. They denied, however, that the resignation was in any way related to the electoral campaign.

Menem praised Sourrouille's replacement, Chamber of Deputies President Juan Carlos Pugliese, calling him "a great politician and a excellent man."

The Peronist presidential hopeful played down the possibility that Sourrouille's resignation might benefit the political campaign of his UCR adversary. He added that he views the measure as "beneficial for the nation."

Hoping that Pugliese "does well for the benefit of everyone," Menem pointed out that the economic situation is "very serious, very difficult, and cannot be changed in the next 45 days," the number of days until the presidential elections are held.

Alvaro Alsogaray, the presidential candidate for the Centrist Alliance, described the resignation as "inopportune and traumatic." He said that the former economy minister and his entire team "should have resigned 2 years ago when it became clear that the Austral Plan was a failure."

Alsogaray harshly criticized Angeloz for his statements that prompted Sourrouille's resignation, because this "causes great confusion right in the middle of the electoral process, and great uncertainty, the consequence of which will, as always, be paid by the people."

Guillermo Estevez Boero, presidential hopeful for the Socialist Unity, agreed with Alsogaray that Sourrouille's "was late in coming," although, he noted, "it was long awaited by the majority of the people."

Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez was the first government official to discuss Sourrouille's resignation, confirming initial unofficial reports.

Lopez said that Sourrouille's departure took place "in the face of the political situation" created by Angeloz's remarks.

Presidential Secretary General Carlos Becerra has said that Sourrouille's resignation "has absolutely nothing to do with the electoral campaign," and that it was accepted in the face of the "political need to calm down the markets and the economic situation."

For his part, Antonio Cafiero, the Buenos Aires Province governor and Justicialist Party (PJ) president, said that "President Alfonsin reacted belatedly by accepting Sourrouille's resignation. According to the official announcement, however, Alfonsin did not accept the resignation to meet popular demands but to meet a public request made by the UCR presidential candidate."

Meanwhile, United Left vice presidential candidate Luis Zamora has said that "this is a desperate maneuver, trying to wash the UCR's electoral hands." He added that "after this change things will remain unchanged or get worse because neither inflation nor the speculation with the dollar will be curbed unless foreign debt payments are stopped."

Christian Democratic Party Deputy Alberto Aramouni has said that "rather than the replacement of a man," the people expect "a change in the UCR's economic policy."

Worker's Party presidential candidate Jorge Altamira has said that Sourrouille "has fallen due to a decision made by the international banks, which are not willing to finance the electoral speculation of the Alfonsin administration."

Altamira predicted that "as of today, a brutal anti-workers policy that will officially set the dollar exchange rate at about 40 australes and will prompt brutal shortages will be implemented."

For this part, PJ Deputy Ruben Cardozo has said that Pugliese "is my friend," and that "we will surely never have to summon him for questioning at the Chamber of Deputies."

In turn, the metropolitan PJ office has pointed out that this "is the last scene of a grotesque comedy" played by Alfonsin and Angeloz. The office branded the politicians "cynics."

Pugliese on Appointment

PY0104141389 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Newly appointed Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese this evening stressed that he accepted his appointment because one cannot refuse to serve the country. He said he wants to think about the economy not in terms of the period that ends on 14 May, but on 10 December. In statements over the phone, Pugliese said

he was unaware of the date when he will be installed and declined to release the names of those who will be his assistants. He also refused to mention any possible new measures. I should first become familiar with everything; I will not improvise in this area, which is very delicate, Pugliese said.

Federal Judge Denies Border Incident With Chile

PY0304145589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1321 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Comodoro Rivadavia, 3 Apr (TELAM)—Comodoro Rivadavia Federal Judge Martin Suarez Araujo has flatly denied that any border incident has occurred in the neighborhood of Lake La Plata, Senguer Department, in the Andean area of Chubut Province. This area is very close to the border with Chile.

In remarks that are published in today's issue of the newspaper CRONICA of Comodoro Rivadavia, the judge states: "I want to flatly deny the press report that was disseminated during the past few hours, because there has been no border incident, and there has been no report about the sighting of armed or uniformed groups."

The information apparently came from hunters who frequent the area around the lake. This report motivated a formal charge being laid before the Border Police on 24 March. A patrol was sent to investigate [words indistinct] stated by the judge, and it did not find any evidence to back up the charge.

Omar Lanzoni, the commander of the 38th Border Police Squadron, expressed his concern to CRONICA regarding the report, which "was not exactly sensationalist, but it was completely out of context and does not depict what really occurred."

According to the commander, the hunters apparently saw the prints of shoed horses, ashes, and an empty packet of Chilean cigarettes. But, because it is a trail [words indistinct] marked on the maps and is constantly used by those who hunt red deer and by persons who cross the border for various motives. There is nothing to make me believe that it should be taken out of this context.

Human Rights Organization Headquarters Attacked

PY0304142889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1216 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Mar del Plata, 3 Apr (NA)—The headquarters of a local human rights organization was attacked last night by a group of unidentified people who left without taking anything.

The incident occurred in Apartment D, on the third floor of 2076 Catamarca Street. This apartment houses the headquarters of the Association of Mothers, Grandmothers, and Relatives of Detained and Missing Persons. Last night the place was broken into, dossiers were opened, and photographs were thrown onto the floor.

The intruders left without taking anything, although they did leave two dossiers in a visible place on one of the desks. These dossiers are linked to the disappearance of Roberto Frigerio and Liliana Pereyra during the military dictatorship.

The case of Pereyra is being investigated by the courts. Hugo Montenegro, the organization's spokesman, has stated that "this was not meant as an attempted theft; it has other connotations that must be investigated."

Noise Bomb Injures Minors in Cordoba

PY0304124889 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Cordoba, 3 Apr (NA)—Several minors, aged between 10 and 17, were injured when a noise bomb they were handling exploded.

The victims, who are being looked after in several medical centers, had escaped from the Hipolito Yrigoyen Detention Institute for Minors. They were planning to sleep under the bushes in Colon Park in the Clinicas neighborhood, which is just a few blocks from downtown Cordoba.

According to police, the minors found a noise bomb in the park which they ignited. It exploded before they could throw it away.

Two of the minors suffered serious injuries and were taken to the hospital by passersby. One of these minors had a finger amputated while the other minor received face surgery.

The accident occurred at approximately midnight. The police later learned that three other minors had also received attention at the hospital for minor wounds.

Chile

President Requests Cabinet Resignations

PY0304190789 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] President Pinochet today asked all his ministers to submit their resignations. This information was released today shortly before noon by the General Secretariat of the Presidency.

This morning, His Excellency, the president of the Republic, asked for the resignation of all ministers to enable him to make changes in the cabinet.

The ministers have tendered their resignations to the chief of state so he can make the appropriate changes.

Agriculture Minister Resigns

PY0304183489 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Text] Agriculture Minister Jaime de la Sotta, who has tendered his resignation, today told the fruit producers to remain calm because the government is watching to see that the economic measures taken to cope with the fruit problem will reach all the levels for which they were divided. This is an incentive for our exports to be continued, he said.

The government is not prepared for an industry like ours—the fruit industry—to have problems the minister said, adding that, we are very closely following the developments throughout the entire chain.

De la Sotta made these remarks upon leaving the Foreign Ministry exit of the Government Palace. He, along with the rest of the cabinet members, went there to sign his resignation.

Finance Minister Resigns

PY0304172489 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT Apr 89

[Text] Finance Minister Hernan Buchi Buci has resigned. It is very possible that within the next few days Buchi will be proclaimed a presidential candidate.

At this moment the cabinet is meeting at La Moneda Palace.

Within a brief period of time we will have more information on these events.

Instructions to Military in Case of Plebiscite

PY0104135089 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet on 31 March met with the government junta and then with Army unit commanders. La Moneda Palace sources said that during the meeting with the junta the president analyzed draft laws that are being studied by the junta. As for the meeting with the Army commanders, which is regarded as an exclusively military meeting, the president gave general instructions on what the Armed Forces should do in case there is a plebiscite by mid-year.

This information was released by General Jorge Sincke, Army deputy commander in chief, who was consulted about the meeting. He explained that a meeting is held at the beginning of every year to give unit commanders the instructions for the military activities of the year. Sincke added that the president mentioned institutional and not political issues, because he does not discuss political issues with the Army.

Foreign Minister To Officially Visit Argentina

PY0104135989 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Hernan Felipe Errazuriz will pay an official visit to Argentina on 6 and 7 April 1989. The objective of the visit is to strengthen bilateral relations based on the peace and friendship treaty signed in 1984. Errazuriz has been invited by his Argentina counterpart, Dante Caputo. In Buenos Aires, Caputo and Errazuriz will preside over the sessions of the second meeting of periodic consultations provided for in Article 1 of the treaty.

Bomb Explosion Damages Municipal Building

PY3103153289 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] A bomb caused considerable damage to the Las Condes District Municipal Building in the Santiago metropolitan area. Police sources have said that no injuries were reported.

The police said that the bomb, which was planted by unidentified people, exploded last night at 2245 in front of the Las Condes Municipal Building, at 3,300 Apoquinho Avenue.

A special police squad went to the scene of the incident to investigate.

Ecuador

More on Resumption of Foreign Debt Payments

PA0304162589 Paris AFP in Spanish 0424 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Quito, 31 Mar (AFP)— Government officials announced here today—after assessing the results of the emergency economic measures adopted in August 1988 when they took office—their willingness to resume partial interest payments on the foreign debt owed to private international banks.

Even though they did not reveal the amount to be paid or the date that the first payment will be made, the officials explained that this represents the Ecuadoran Government's sense of responsibility and desire to meet its commitments to the extent that it can—but without hindering economic revitalization in the country.

Monetary Board President Abelardo Pachano said simply that the payments will cover some of the 1989 interest obligations and that there is currently no proposal concerning principal and interest payments, which have not been made since February 1987 and amount to "approximately" $1.2 billion.

Pachano said that monetary reserves at the end of February showed a negative balance of only $108 million, which represents an improvement of $220 million in the 7 months of the current administration.

He said that the stability prevailing in the foreign exchange markets, foreign trade controls, prompt payments on international commercial transactions, and prompt payments to multinational organizations, resulted in some credit renewals.

Central Bank Manager Jose Morillo also stressed improvements made in the areas of internal capital controls, the nonexistence of overdrafts in the Central Bank and credits to the public sector, as well as the suspension of government donations and the issuance of negotiable securities. He also mentioned the internal savings, the strict control of public spending, and—in the Central Bank's case—the cuts in personnel, branch offices (including one in New York), movable property, and automobiles.

According to Pachano, the only problem in handling Ecuador's economy is in controlling the rate of inflation while shortages of staples in the family basket persist. Thus, the goal of holding the annual inflation rate to under 300 percent is still being pursued, though he could not give a time frame in which this goal might be realized.

Given this satisfactory situation, which proves the effectiveness of the national policies, plus the increase in oil prices on international markets—$17 per barrel this week—"it is easy to understand the decision to make partial payments, which we are capable of making."

Pachano said Ecuador is well positioned to improve credit terms at the next round of foreign debt negotiations, even though no proposal has been made. The government is waiting to promote the best initiatives proposed thus far to benefit the country. He also revealed that the government has yet to decide on a renegotiation with the Paris Club.

Pachano announced that he and Finance Minister Jorge Gallardo will travel to New York in a few days to attend the IMF acting committee and development committee meetings.

He said they expect to hold high-level talks with the IMF and with the U.S. and other governments while in New York, and to learn more about the Brady Plan.

Pachano denied reports of the signing of a letter of intent with the IMF. He said that the Economic Emergency Plan was designed by Ecuadoran experts to reactivate the national economy and it has no connection with the foreign debt issue.

He did not rule out new economic measures, but he explained that the national policy is based on gradual implementation of the current economic measures as opposed to so-called shock measures.

Official Denies 'Uneasiness' in Armed Forces

PA3103183889 Guayaquil EL UNIVERSO in Spanish 21 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Quito—During a news conference in which he answered a number of questions regarding various current political issues, economist Washington Herrera, Ecuadoran secretary general of administration, said that no disagreement exists with the Armed Forces.

In commenting on the military issue, Herrera added that President Borja has stated that all talk of uneasiness in the Armed Forces is the result of rumors that are sometimes spread irresponsibly. I insist that there is a sense of tranquillity within the Armed Forces.

Herrera said the government is not concerned about former President Leon Febres-Cordero's political activities, "since immoral people cannot talk about morality."

When informed by reporters, however, that President Borja has said that he will return each and every blow, Herrera replied: The government will punish insolence.

Asked to what extent the position of Deputy Efrain Cocios—who is asking that former President Febres-Cordero be imprisoned—is supported, Herrera answered: That is the position of a very respectable Democratic Left [ID] leader, and we are gathering the necessary evidence. There is no desire for revenge here but a determination to see justice done.

The Ecuadoran attorney general has his own opinion about the matter and the government will hear it. Herrera said: We are investigating all the misdeeds committed by the previous government.

In response to another question, Herrera said that time will tell whether it is appropriate to conduct a political trial against former President Febres- Cordero.

As for the government alliance with the Popular Democracy [DP] and the agreement between the DP and the ID in Congress, Herrera said the issue will be discussed after the upcoming DP internal elections are held.

In regard to the consumer protection bill, Washington Herrera said that it has been submitted for national debate and ample consideration and that all the country's social and economic groups can express their opinions and present their objections.

In regard to the wage revision bill, Herrera stressed that the resources to conduct a general wage increase will come from better administration and tax collection, "because the Ecuadoran population grows every year, their needs increase, demands increase, and we need a sufficiently large budget to meet these demands."

Paraguay

Colorado Party Special Convention Opens

PY0104171889 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] The special convention of the National Republican Association—the ruling Colorado Party—began today. The convention appointed the credentials committee and then adjourned until 1600 today.

Rodriguez Addresses Luncheon

PY0104180189 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional Television in Spanish 1530 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Speech by Provisional President General Andres Rodriguez in the dining room of Colorado Party headquarters in Asuncion prior to a luncheon for party conventioneers—live]

[Text] Mr Party President, Messrs members of the Colorado Party Executive Board, Messrs true and honorable conventioneers of the Colorado Party from all over the country. May my first words to you be a fraternal and cordial greeting to all of you from myself and my family. [applause]

I merely want to tell all of you that I have complete confidence in you all, because I am sure your debates will contribute significantly toward strengthening democracy in our country. [applause]

This democracy is the first step in the recovery of our honor and dignity, just as I said on 3 February. We have recovered the honor and dignity not only of the Armed Forces or the Colorado Party, but of the entire Paraguayan people. [applause]

Messrs conventioneers, my most heartfelt wishes that your debates may help to strengthen the democratic process our country is living through. Thank you very much. [applause and shouts of "Rodriguez, Rodriguez"]

Unified Radical Liberal Party Names Candidate

PY0104221289 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 30 Mar 89 p 9

[Excerpt] The Unified Radical Liberal Party [Partido Liberal Radical Unificado] [PLRU] will participate in the 1 May general elections and its presidential candidate is Manuel Blas Mangabeira. This information was given by Nestor Moragas, PLRU secretary general. The decision was made after 3 days of meetings to discuss the candidacy.

Moragas added that the list of candidates for senators and deputies will be made this weekend. The PLRU has three movements and "efforts are being made to reach an agreement among the three movements." [passage omitted]

Liberal Party Elects Presidential Candidate

PY0304150089 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 3 Apr 89 p 60

[Excerpt] Carlos Ferreira Ibarra is the presidential candidate of the Liberal Party for the 1 May elections. He was elected during the party's extraordinary convention that took place in the Espana Movie Theater on 2 April. [passage omitted]

Liberal Party Elects Members for Congress

PY0304143289 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 3 Apr 89 p 60

[Text] Following is the list of Liberal Party candidates for Congress:

For the Senate: Joaquin A. Burgos, Tadeo Centurion Sostoa, Augusto Caceres Carissimo, Blas Victor Aquino, Ricardo Aguiar, Isidro Gonzalez Doldan, Milciades R. Medina, Efrain Benitez, Ricardo Rivas, Filemon Samudio, Guido A. Ferreira, and Prudencia Garozzo.

Alternate Senators: Luis Coronel Gomez, Abelardo Figueredo, Rufino Aquino, Ramon Martinez, Hipolito Guillen, and Marcelino Noguera.

For the Chamber of Deputies: Carlos Ferreira Ibarra, Justo D. Balbuena, Valeriano Mancuello, Emerenciano Cabello, Pablo Figueredo Ruiz, Nazario Espinola R., Victor Figueredo Rojas, Atanasio Rodriguez, Vicente Ferrer, Lulio Eisenhut, Edgar Benitez Fernandez, Wilfrido Benitez, Ricardo Villagra, Eulogia E. Fernandez, Eusebio Amarilla, Hipolito Miranda, Romildo L. Martinez, Silvio Figueredo, Hernan R. Ibarra, Gregorio Alviso, Raul Martinez, Juan H. Ovelar, Graciela Gamarra, and Felipe B. Marin.

Alternate members, Carlos Augusto Ferreira, Juan Angel Paez, Dionisio Cazal, Eduardo Escurra, Hugo Castro, Emilio Elisaur, Leonardo Alvarenga, Rolendio Martinez, Fausto Chamorro, Leonor Gonzalez, Eulalia Pesoa, and Gustavo Duarte.

Cabinet Evaluation of Economy 'Encouraging'

PY0104184589 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 1 Apr 89 p 12

[Text] The cabinet ministers on 31 March evaluated the performance of the economy following the new measures implemented by the government in February, and with the new political and economic orientation of the government.

Central Bank President Crispiniano Sandoval, who was consulted by the press, reported on the issues addressed during the meeting. The meeting disclosed encouraging prospects for the country.

Dr Sandoval mentioned two positive points: first, the low inflation rate, which in the past quarter reached only 4.2 percent. Second, a small but encouraging increase in reserves, which until February had been decreasing in an almost chaotic manner.

"The inflation rate last month was very low, reaching 0.8 percent. This is a very low figure that reflects the promising results of the government economic plan. With the 0.8-percent inflation in March, the inflation of the first quarter of the year amounts to 4.2 percent, which is also a manageable rate that reflects the stability of prices over this period," he stressed.

On the matter of reserves, which are a subject of concern, Sandoval said that they are at a stable level. "They are not decreasing, and they have reached $165 million, which means there has been a small $2-million increase." This increase, he explained, is the result of dollar purchases by the Central Bank on the black market.

He said that another major issue was that the private sector received record financial support, which the previous regime devoted to the public sector. "In 1 month, the Central Bank granted 61 billion guaranies in rediscounts for the purchase of cotton and soybeans. This is a record amount granted to the private sector, so that it can pay farmers in cash," he added.

"The total rediscounts granted by the Central Bank to the productive sector amount to 158 billion guaranies. This is the first time that this amount has surpassed the credits to the public sector, which had been increasing since 1983," he added.

He also mentioned the stability of the exchange rate, explaining that the black market exchange rate has remained stable in March, at about 1,000 guaranies per U.S. dollar.

"The Central Bank," he went on, "is buying dollars to stabilize the exchange rate and thus help improve payments to producers. If the exchange rate drops, producers will receive less for their produce. Consequently, the Central Bank maintains a stable exchange rate to allow farmers to get a higher pay, because cotton and soybean prices are rising on the world market."

Referring to exports, Sandoval stated that March exports provided an income of $105 million, surpassing by 99 percent the exports of March 1988, which barely reached $52 million. "Overall exports during the first quarter were $133 million, also higher than those of the same period last year," he added. [figures as published]

According to the Central Bank president, these figures reflect positive developments resulting from the economic policy of the government during its first month.

At the end of the ministers' meeting Sandoval said that the payment of the foreign debt corresponding to the month of February must be made at the free exchange rate. Payments for interest and principal that were due by 2 February, however, will still be made at the rate of 400 guaranies per dollar. He added that the printing of money is increasing, although it is under control. He categorically denied that credits to the public sector are increasing.

Sandoval said: "The Central Bank is paying all obligations contracted by the state for petroleum imports. Moreover, the payment of the foreign debt that was due in February will have to be paid at the previous exchange rate. However, all payments after 1 March will be made at the free exchange rate. [as published]. Current payments are made with dollars purchased from the free market. The Central Bank is currently dealing with those payments."

He said that the debt has increased to $2 billion. Last year only $280 million were paid, and the resulting delays led the current government to seek a renegotiation.

Sandoval added: "We are still paying debts to the World Bank, to the Inter-American Development Bank, and to some government agencies from which we have obtained loans. With some creditors we are studying how to renegotiate that debt in order to extend the repayment period and establish the general conditions of repayment."

"The internal debt of the public sector amounts to 142 billion guaranies, 59 billion of which is owed by the Finance Ministry, while the rest is owed by state enterprises and other public organizations," he said.

Sandoval said that this debt is being paid with the profit from the money exchange market, because we do not want to use the country's monetary reserves, which have already been seriously affected, since they represent a strategic resource for the country. He also disclosed that the monetary reserves have increased by $2 million, to a total of $165 million.

Sandoval was also emphatic in stating that the public credit has not increased, which has kept the government from having to issue money to finance the public sector. As a result, the Central Bank has more opportunity to serve the productive sector, "and this is being done in a gradual, positive manner."

He said that the Central Bank "continues to analyze new credit systems that may finance the development of other sectors, especially the industrial sector."

Sandoval said that there are several mechanisms to achieve this objective, such as the legal reserves system, the increase of rediscounts, "and other means of support to the industrial sector." He also noted that the increasing issuance of money as a result of the increase of rediscounts is under control, "so that it will not become a source of inflation."

Peru

Garcia Praises Puerto Rican Independence Support

PY0304030789 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Excerpt] The APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] and the Peruvian Government support the Puerto Rican peoples' legitimate aspiration to become independent from the United States. President Alan Garcia said this today after receiving Ruben Berrios, senator and president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, who voiced his admiration for the Peruvian President.

[Begin Garcia recording] Ruben Berrios is president of the Puerto Rican Independence Party, which has a large following in Puerto Rico and is currently playing an important role there. The three Puerto Rican political parties have addressed the President of the United States, noting that since 1898, when Puerto Rico was placed under the U.S. sovereignty, Puerto Ricans have never had a plebiscite to express their opinion of their country's political situation. It is an important, historic fact for Latin America that for the first time the three political parties, that is, all the Puerto Rican political parties, have agreed to write a letter to the U.S. President. More important still is the fact that the U.S. President, in a message to the U.S. Congress, has admitted that a plebiscite must be held in Puerto Rico to decide that country's political status.

Alan Garcia and the Peruvian APRA party support Puerto Rico's desire to become independent and to integrate itself into the Latin American community, where it belongs.

I want to introduce you to Ruben Berrios, who is an ardent supporter of Puerto Rico's independence. He has finally been able to see his determination begin to yield fruit. The letter by the three Puerto Rican political parties and the positive answer given by President Bush open paths never dreamed of in the past. We voice our pleasure over President Bush' statements, and in our capacity as Latin Americans we congratulate President Bush for acknowledging the Puerto Rican people's right to decide their future through a plebiscite. I wish you lots of luck. [end Garcia recording] [passage omitted]

Presidential Elections Advanced to March 1990

PY0104171589 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1307 GMT 1 Apr 89

[Text] Lima, 1 Apr (PL-TELAM)—After a meeting between the ruling APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] and President Alan Garcia, Senator Javier Valle Riestra has reported that presidential elections in Peru will be advanced to March 1990.

The proposal, submitted a few days ago by Senator Luis Alberto Sanchez, is based on the very probable need to hold a second round of voting, due to the division of the voters into three major factions, and because this is the apparent general consensus in all parties.

President Alan Garcia held a meeting with the APRA Political Commission, Prime Minister Armando Villanueva, the Senate president, and other high-ranking officials, apparently to asses the positive and negative effects this decision will have on the future of the ruling party.

Minister Interviewed on Economy, Recent Measures

PY0304235889 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 Apr 89

[Interview with Economy Minister Carlos Rivas Davila by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Question] Good evening minister. Many people wonder why, despite the number of economic measures implemented at the end of each month, inflation has not dropped. Why hasn't inflation dropped, minister?

[Rivas] First, we must mention the temporary and structural reasons for inflation. I want to refer specifically to the main reasons for inflation and to show why inflation is so high. We should first point out that approximately 18 of the 42 percentage points of this month's inflation are due to speculation which is common at this time of the year, and to the fact that school starts in March, a time when monthly fees, entry fees, and school supply prices are very high and truly affect the family budget.

[Question] How should expectations be understood? As a lack of sincerity on the part of financial and economic sectors in attempting to set reasonable prices?

[Rivas] No. We now have a speculative economy, or rather, an economy in crisis. I pointed out that of the overall inflation rate, 18 percentage points correspond to corrective measures, 7 percentage points represent inflationary expectations, 18 percentage points can be traced to the demand for school supplies in March and other seasonal phenomena, as well as to the increase in prices and public utilities. These are the components of the total inflation for March. If we take off the demand for school supplies, for instance, inflation would only be about 25 percent, not 42 percent.

[Question] Some contend that the most important factors of inflation, money printing and fiscal deficit, have remained at the same level, and that this is why inflation does not come down. Is this really true?

[Rivas] Nearly all our efforts have been directed at correcting the factor that generates inflation, that is, the fiscal deficit. Subsidies, for instance, were a large strain

on the Treasury and, in turn, they pressured the Central Bank to print money. They were reduced from $124 million a month to $2 million a month with April's corrective measures.

[Question] That is correct. The agriculture minister has said that subsidies for food have been practically eliminated.

[Rivas] Practically so. We are continuing this to correct the main imbalances behind the inflation.

[Question] And money printing by the Central Bank?

[Rivas] No money is being printed to meet the needs of the central government. The government is meeting its needs with its own resources, not only its internal needs but its external needs as well.

[Question] Mr Minister, if inflationary money printing is under control and if the fiscal deficit is maintained at a given level, will the economic program in the future be focused on inflationary expectations? That would mean price control, for instance.

[Rivas] Well, it is no longer necessary to reduce the factors that were generating inflation. As subsidies are reduced, as the economy becomes more realistic, as public expenditures are controlled, as revenues are improved through better tax collection, it will no longer be necessary to resort to traditional instruments. The correctives will follow a different strategy and will not be implemented every 30 days. The monthly corrections generated inflationary expectations; they will now be eliminated—or at least will not occur every month.

[Question] The economic measures this month were surprisingly adopted 24 hours earlier, just as had happened last month. People will probably be more alert next month. Does this mean that we are now moving into a gradual stage?

[Rivas] Not necessarily. We do not have to adopt a gradual strategy. We must simply not build the expectation of changes taking place every 30 days. The expectation of new measures encourages speculation and hoarding, which in turn cause inflation. We therefore decided to announce corrective measures early, to avoid not only lines at the service stations, but also the concealment of goods that had been happening earlier.

[Question] These factors are certainly important, but they seem to be secondary. Your ministry has been entertaining the idea of a social pact. There have been meetings with businessmen and workers. The businessmen ask for clear rules; the workers ask for salary increases. Are there possibilities of reaching a minimum common denominator for this social pact?

[Rivas] I believe that the characteristics and conditions of the Peruvian economy at this time make a social pact advisable. The pact can be reached if the most important economic agents—the state, businessmen, and workers—accept a concrete proposal on which we are working. Although there have been no official meetings or meetings with the media in attendance, [word indistinct] is playing an important role, just like the Church. It seems possible that we can make some commitments that I think are viable, in a concerted effort to overcome the economic crisis.

To the workers, for instance, the so-called salary equivalence is important. Will this salary equivalence go into effect this ...

[Rivas, interrupting] It will go into effect in May. The use of the salary equivalence principle will solve one of the problems with the salaries of civil servants, which are so different. With the salary equivalence, this situation will be corrected.

[Question] The request for salary equivalence and for a salary increase for civil servants can be called fair, especially since the Constitution says that salaries should be subject to indexation. But this is precisely what generates inflation and money printing. How can these points be reconciled?

[Rivas] In a crisis, it is very difficult to apply the indexation principle without first trying to bring inflation under control. No matter how much salaries are increased, they immediately lose their buying power because of inflation. The fundamental concerns should be to control inflation and to reactivate the economy. We are making an effort to reactivate the economy by encouraging mining and fishing exports, as immediate sources of foreign currency.

[Question] Would you say that the country's productive sectors are in a recession?

[Rivas] Some indicators signal that. We cannot deny it, but we will continue to emphasize the objectives of fighting inflation and recession. We want to reactivate the economy and promote self-sustained growth through a joint national effort. I reiterate the call we initially made: to unite our efforts and not to transfer responsibility, regardless of one's ideological or political position.

[Question] Mr Minister, the issue of Peru's integration into the international financial community has been polemicized by many politicians and the press. You have just returned from Amsterdam, where an IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] meeting was held. Is there any progress in our relations with the IDB?

[Rivas] Negotiations with the IDB continue. We are keeping in touch and talking with Enrique Eglesias, with Spanish banks, and with the Andean Reserve Fund to arrange a bridge loan. I want to stress that the objective of the trip to Amsterdam was to attend the annual IDB governors' meeting. We also used it, however, to make contact with the IDB regarding Peruvian projects and

the flow of resources once normal relations are restored. And we used it to talk with ministers from various countries and with representatives of foreign creditor banks who have not met with us in the past 3 years. This is very positive, because, by resuming dialogue, we demonstrate that we have not turned our back on our obligations. We simply face limitations that keep us from fulfilling our payment obligations. We hope to resolve this situation, and to that effect we call on the international financial organizations to give better treatment, not only to Peru, but to all the Latin American countries. The problem has become crucial, and they have begun to recognize that fact. If we do not have encouragement and effective support from those international financial organizations, Latin America will not be likely to start growing again or to meet its commitments.

[Question] It is obvious that President Alan Garcia, as President Carlos Andres Perez said, has been some sort of Lone Ranger in his approach to the foreign debt issue. Now there are prospects that Argentina and Brazil might go the same route. We read declarations to this effect by Carlos Raul Menem, who might well be the next president of Argentina. In the meantime, however, the solutions will have to be technical and by the book. One of them is the bridge loan you mentioned. How much will it be and who will give it to us?

[Rivas] It would be $100 million, but we may now be talking of $110 million. I want to explain that President Alan Garcia's position was initially a solitary and misunderstood position, but now it is being recognized internationally by all organizations and by world statesmen. The foreign debt problem cannot be seen only from a technical viewpoint; it must also be seen from a political viewpoint. It is up to the great powers to make decisions to improve relations with Third World countries.

[Question] Does the type of program you have announced have the official backing of the international organizations and the creditor banks? Do they support Peru's economic plan?

[Rivas] There is a good disposition toward this plan, and the efforts being made by the Peruvian Government are appreciated. We have noticed this not only in our talks with IDB officials, but also in our talks with the IMF and the creditor banks' representatives. They recognize the significant efforts Peru is making by implementing measures to adjust our economy. Although they specifically favor different measures, they recognize that the objective we pursue is the same one they recommended a few months ago.

[Question] Of course they recommend shock measures. We have seen that some media support shock measures, because they think the present gradual policy will not help get us where we want to go. The international financial community—IDB, IMF, and creditors banks—favors a violent shock.

[Rivas] The conditions and demands of a classical shock, as recommended by the IMF, have practically been met. We have eliminated subsidies, reduced significantly the fiscal deficit, and improved Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency] finances. We are trying to correct the main imbalances. The exchange rate is no longer soaring on the parallel market as a sign of the inflation that was guiding the national economy. We are moving ahead with our efforts, and we believe that what is fundamental has been done. Now we will move against inflation to bring it down and to help our economy recover.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, thank you very much for your appearance on the "Reportaje a la Noticia" program. We hope that all economic agents will pay attention to the government's message and contribute to the fight against inflation.

[Rivas] I am glad to have been on this program.

Venezuela

Perez Returns to Caracas, Assesses U.S. Trip

PA0204012089 Paris AFP in Spanish 0026 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Caracas, 1 Apr (AFP)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, shortly after returning to Caracas today, said that he informed U.S. President Bush of his optimism regarding the Esquipulas II peace plan for Central America—and particularly with regard to El Salvador—and the flexibility shown by the Nicaraguan Sandinists.

Perez met with Bush at the White House this morning for more than 2 hours. Immediately afterward, the Venezuelan president left for Venezuela. On his visit he also went to Atlanta and New York.

At the meeting, Bush, who was accompanied by Vice President Dan Quayle, asked the Venezuelan president to support his policy on Latin America.

"I expressed my optimism regarding the Esquipulas II peace plan, particularly with regard to El Salvador, and my optimism regarding the Sandinist agreements, which respond to the Central American presidents' commitments to resolve regional problems," Perez said. He concluded: "We discussed that topic at length. I congratulated President Bush for the bipartisan agreement (with the Democrats regarding humanitarian aid for the contras) and for the new U.S. position of seeking solutions through peaceful means. I also praised the Sandinist government for its response to this significant Latin American agreement."

Perez Pleased Over Brady Plan, UN Contacts

PA0304152489 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1338 GMT 2 Apr 89

[Text] Caracas, 2 Apr (DPA)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said yesterday afternoon in Caracas that the Brady Plan will "immediately" have an effect on Venezuela.

After arriving at the Simon Bolivar International Airport from the United States, the Venezuelan president said he was pleased with the talks he held with U.S. businessmen and politicians, particularly with President George Bush.

"I return satisfied because my expectations have been surpassed," Perez said, immediately adding that the cordialness with which he was received by President Bush was "very significant."

"We reached definite conclusions on the way we will counter the foreign debt problem. Not only that, I also fulfilled my duty of discussing the Latin American problem and getting positive replies. It was a frank and open dialogue," he said.

Referring again to the Brady Plan, which is aimed at reducing a large percentage of the Third World debt, the president said he expects a 50-percent reduction in Venezuela's debt. "The exact amount has yet to be defined, but there is a pledge to that effect," Perez added.

During his visit to the United States, the Venezuelan president met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, with whom he discussed Latin American, Central American, and foreign debt issues.

Likewise, he met with representatives of the Group of 77 at the UN. "The way in which they received my message, and the talks I had with them, tell me that Venezuela is a country that enjoys respect," Perez said. "We have reason to feel optimistic about a solution to our problems and about a new reality in international relations," he concluded.

Perez on Panama Elections, Regional Issues
PA0104183389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2052 GMT 31 Mar 89

[Text] United Nations, 31 Mar (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said today that the Panamanian electoral process lacks the basic elements necessary to guarantee clean and honest elections.

The Venezuelan president held a news conference following an interview with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and said that it is not enough to tell the Panamanians that they will have free access to the ballot boxes on 7 May. It is also necessary to honestly adhere to the election process and its results, he said.

"The Panamanian electoral law does not guarantee honest elections in that country," he stressed.

Referring to El Salvador, Perez characterized the suspension of the negotiations between the Christian Democratic government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), as a "negative development."

He attributed the suspension of the dialogue to the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) victory in the elections but admitted that the transfer of power in that nation is the result of a democratic process. Therefore, "our obligation is to recognize the regime that has resulted from the election," he said.

"We must now stridently demand that the new government maintain the previous government's position regarding negotiations with the subversive or warring groups, because that is the will of the other Latin American peoples and of world democracy," Perez added.

Regarding Nicaragua, Perez said he does not regret the cooperation that Venezuela gave the Sandinists to end Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship, but this "does not mean I accept the fact that they have failed to meet the Nicaraguan people's hopes."

Perez said that he can see why the United States does not trust the position of the Managua government, whose negative aspects and radicalization, he added, are the result of the propaganda surrounding the war with the rebels.

The Nicaraguan authorities "did not seriously work to earn the trust of the democratic countries," Perez said. He added, however, that since hostilities have ceased, "we must allow [the Nicaraguan Government] some degree of trust and credibility."

"No country in the area has claimed that the Nicaraguans failed to fulfill their pledges until now. Likewise, the Nicaraguan Government cannot complain about the U.S. attitude," he emphasized.

He warned that he is not the "manager of the Sandinists' good faith," because there are risks involved in assuming that position. However, "we have many reasons to think that they are on the right track," and those of us who "believe in peace and dialogue must trust" the steps being taken to democratize the country.

Perez expressed his support for the bipartisan agreement reached by the U.S. Congress and President George Bush to give $4.5 million a month in humanitarian aid to the contras in Honduras until February of next year.

Perez continued: "We have applauded the U.S. policy on the Nicaraguan problem," adding that he trusts that this "satisfactory change" will enhance the possibility of increased cooperation with Latin America to achieve a peaceful and negotiated solution to the problem.

Perez did not say if Venezuela is the Latin American nation that will be part of—along with Spain, the FRG, and Canada—the UN Observers for Central America [Observadores de la ONU para Centro America] (ONUCA).

However, he emphasized that his country is willing to cooperate "to the extent necessary to help achieve peace" in the Central American region.